

From the Leader of the Council

Our Ref: **Leader/2017-08/015**

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Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Communities
& Local Government
2 Marsham St
LONDON
SW1P 4DF



Tuesday, 08 August 2017

GRENFELL FIRE: COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OUR RESPONSE

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to you regarding the intensive work we have done as a local authority in the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire in June to reassure residents and ensure the safety of our own residential tower blocks, and the costs associated with this work.

In the immediate aftermath of the fire;

- We of course provided support to Kensington & Chelsea Council in the form of officer manpower and emergency planning support
- We also, under instruction from your department, undertook sampling of all cladding from our medium/high rise residential blocks – a total of 31 samples from 27 structures were sent to the Department for Communities and Local Government for testing
- We met with the London Fire Brigade (LFB), highlighting certain blocks of concern, inspecting and carrying out urgent work identified by the LFB
- We are removing ACM cladding from one residential property, which was covering the stairwells, following a failed ACM test and advice from the LFB
- We have also now completed a programme of FRA-4s, the most detailed and intrusive Fire Risk Assessments, on all of our priority blocks (those above six storeys, with external cladding). There will almost certainly be further work to be addressed following the reporting from this programme of FRA-4s.

Of course, this amount of urgent work costs a great deal of money. Our current expenditure amounts to in excess of £2.5m and this is likely to rise considerably as work is identified from our FRA-4 programme and replacement weather-proofing is sourced and installed.

This work has all been undertaken, in collaboration with the London Fire Brigade and/or based on guidance from your department as a direct response to Grenfell. It has been proportionate and

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essential in giving residents reassurance and ensuring their safety, which I am sure you will agree, is of paramount importance especially in the current climate.

As a local authority that has had its budget severely limited as a direct result of your government's policies, we simply do not have the resources to meet these costs without a heavily detrimental effect on our ability to serve our residents. I am therefore calling on you to offer assurances that the government will meet these costs, rather than further burden local authorities across the country.

I look forward to your response and trust that you will confirm that the government will meet its obligations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lib Peck', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind it.

Councillor Lib Peck
Leader of Lambeth Council
Email: lpeck@lambeth.gov.uk