

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission (GTMC) Meeting
22 May 2025**

Attendees

Memorial Commission

Thelma Stober (Chair)
Lord Paul Boateng

Community representatives

(Bereaved representatives)	(Survivor representatives)	(Lancaster West and community representatives)
Sandra Ruiz	Abraham Abebe	Susan Al Safadi
Hanan Wahabi	Mohammed Rasoul	Andrea Newton
Adel Chaoui		Samia Badani
Hassan Hassan		Abbas Dadou

Apologies:

Nabil Choucair
Paulos Tekle
Hanan Cherbika

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Secretariat: 5 individuals

Other

Stephanie Edwards, Independent Design Adviser
Peter Neal, Independent Landscape Design Adviser David Bailey, CNWL
Camilla Sheldon, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, MHCLG
Helen Town, MHCLG

Meeting purpose

The sixty-seventh meeting of the Memorial Commission, to discuss the recent meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister, an update from MHCLG on Tower engagement and progress of the GTMC report recommendations. To gain an update on progress of the design team selection process and the planned community engagement sessions with the Grenfell community throughout July.

Opening

- A one-minute silence was held at the start of the meeting.
- It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
- Thelma Stober opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance.
- No conflicts of interests were declared.

- The secretariat presented the minutes from the April meeting for approval, along with an update on the risk register and action log.

Agenda item 1: Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) engagement

- The recent letter from the DPM to the Grenfell community was discussed. The letter included information about the deconstruction of the Tower, however, it was noted that the letter was not clear and did not include a detailed plan. Thelma stated that MHCLG will be attending today's meeting and the Commission should use this as an opportunity to ask MHCLG to provide further clarity on their engagement plans over the coming weeks/months.
- Community representatives shared that they had been approached by members of the community to discuss the recent letters sent by MHCLG and Kensington Aldridge Academy (KAA) to share their concerns. They also noted that the format of the letters - sent in English only - was not a trauma-informed approach and made it impossible for some families to engage with the material.

Agenda item 2: MHCLG update

- Camilla Sheldon and Helen Town entered the meeting. Camilla started by thanking the reps for attending the meeting with the DPM on 6 May. Camilla stated that a letter from the DPM to the Grenfell community on the deconstruction of the Tower and next steps was sent. Camilla confirmed that the letter included an apology from the DPM on the language she used when announcing the future of the Tower in February. Camilla also confirmed that MHCLG will be preparing the site for the anniversary, and visits from the bereaved, survivors and local residents to the site.
- Following the previous GTMC meeting in April, the Commission asked Camilla about further developments regarding safeguarding at community meetings. Camilla updated that this has been highlighted to RBKC as they are the safeguarding lead for the borough. MHCLG will be working with RBKC and Grenfell groups to produce a code of conduct for all to adhere to at community meetings.
- Several community representatives stated that they had heard on the news that the Tower will be deconstructed in September. Community representatives asked if the elements will be taken to a second site.
- Camilla apologised that the community representatives found out in this way. She then discussed the process MHCLG undertook to share the information with the Grenfell community to avoid a media leak (following what happened in February).
- Community representatives advised that MHCLG need to improve their processes so that letters or emails should be more timely to ensure people can plan and arrange to attend the government's community meetings. The community reps also informed Camilla that based on their experience and feedback from the community, they felt key information was missing from the letter. Given the sensitivities of the Tower, the Grenfell community should be told what the process is to deconstruct the Tower, how will this be done and what are the actual dates, this was missing from

the letter sent, alongside details about how deconstruction will be carried out safely and what it will look like.

- A community representative stated that MHCLG should be prioritising information sessions/ workshops with the Grenfell community to ensure they understand the timelines/ sequence including the impacts of deconstruction, the safety, health and wellbeing support, this is what matters to the Grenfell community.
- The Commission asked MHCLG, how will height remain throughout deconstruction. Camilla explained that there are options MHCLG are exploring including the use of light and further details will be shared during the MHCLG engagement sessions over the coming months- The community representatives responded, this information should be known and shared with the community now.
- Camilla apologised to the Commission and stated the reason why the letters were sent late was due to the MHCLG clearance process. She stated that she is committed to working with the Grenfell community and will welcome any support the Commission can give to ensure information is shared with the Grenfell community in a timely manner.

ACTION: MHCLG to engage with the Grenfell community on timelines with dates and details of the impacts of deconstruction.

- MHCLG gave a quick update on the second site and the two suggested sites, which MHCLG is exploring. It was agreed that MHCLG will arrange visits to the two sites in July. A community representative stated that it is more important than ever to get this right, especially now the decision to deconstruct the Tower has been made. It is key that MHCLG proceed with great care, this is a sensitive topic to many in the Grenfell community. The consultation on the second site needs to be adequate and the Commission should be engaged throughout to support meaningful engagement; bereaved families should be included in the process of selecting the second site and must be involved in the site visits if they wish to be.

ACTION: MHCLG to engage bereaved families in the exploration of the second site.

Agenda item 3: Design Team Selection Process- update

- The design advisers, Stephanie Edwards and Peter Neal gave an update on the design team selection process. This included the participatory and technical workshops which were both held in May. At the participatory workshops, community reps and their design advisers met with each of the shortlisted teams to hear more about how the teams will communicate, listen and engage with the Grenfell community. The technical workshops was an opportunity for the shortlisted teams to ask any questions and gain clarification on the process. Both workshops were considered to be successful and very productive.
- The next planned engagement will be the community engagement exhibitions, from 5 July-18 July. These will be online and in-person with sessions taking place at various local venues across the community. There will be separate sessions for bereaved and survivors, the immediate community as well as children and young people. The content will include display boards and videos submitted by the

shortlisted teams. The Grenfell community will be asked comments on how the teams propose to:

- a) Work with the Grenfell community
- b) Develop an example of the memorial elements and uses

- There was a discussion about the feedback form that the Grenfell community will be able to complete with their comments, which must be as clear and accessible as possible.

- Community representatives asked how safeguarding would feature and were assured that this will be addressed so the Grenfell community and that those who have been impacted will be able to freely share their views.

- The secretariat confirmed that safeguarding was captured on the GTMC action log (from the April GTMC meeting) and they will discuss this further with MHCLG and report back at the June GTMC meeting.

- The design advisers will give a further update on the July events, a recap of the design brief and RIBA stages at the June GTMC meeting.

Agenda item 4: Secretariat update

- The secretariat confirmed the communications which will be sent to the Grenfell community over the coming weeks. This will include an update on the design team selection process and the upcoming community engagement exhibition sessions in July. Details of the in-person events and online engagement will be discussed further at the GTMC meeting in June.

- The secretariat gave a brief outline on the plans for the anniversary including the tree gifted by the GTMC each year, the wreath and the anniversary film. The film will be shown to the Commission at the GTMC June meeting. The secretariat discussed their requirements of the letter they require for their employers to enable the representatives to participate in upcoming Memorial Commission activity.

You can contact the Memorial Commission directly using the details below:

Phone: 0303 444 4831

Email: GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk

Website: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact

Next meeting: Thursday 5 June 2025