

The governments full responses to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

1 Overview

Following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017, two independent reviews were conducted by Dame Judith Hackitt, Paul morrell and Anneliese Day, which exposed significant failures in the construction products regulatory system, institutional failures and that profit was allowed to come before safety.

On 26 February 2025, the government published its full response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. The response states that the government accepts the findings of the Inquiry and sets out its plans to act on all 58 recommendations

This briefing provides a summary of the response. The full responses can be access via the following link: [Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report: Government response](#)

2 Governments response

The government state that the Grenfell Inquiry's final report exposed a system that ignored safety risks and failed to listen to residents. The report laid bare 'systemic dishonesty' in the industry, failures in the construction sector and by successive governments, and poor regulation in the run up to the disaster.

The government advises that it apologises on behalf of the British state for its part in these failings and has introduced significant changes to fix the worst issues exposed by the tragedy.

3 Reforms announced

The reforms announced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government include:

- A new single construction regulator to ensure those responsible for building safety are held to account.
- Tougher oversight of those responsible for testing and certifying, manufacturing and using construction products with serious consequences for those who break the rules.
- A legal duty of candour through a new Hillsborough Law, compelling public authorities to disclose the truth, ensuring transparency in major incidents, and holding those responsible for failures to account.
- Stronger, clearer, and enforceable legal rights for residents, making landlords responsible for acting on safety concerns.
- Empowering social housing residents to challenge landlords and demand safe, high-quality housing, by expanding the Four Million Homes training programme. Making it easier for tenants to report safety concerns and secure landlord action by taking forward the Make Things Right campaign.
- Ensuring lasting transparency and accountability by creating a publicly accessible record of all public inquiry recommendations.

As well as changes in regulation, in December 2024, the government launched its Remediation Acceleration Plan which sets out tough new measures to get buildings fixed quicker and ensure rogue freeholders are held to account.

4 Supplier Accountability

The government has set out the next steps of its review to identify where the Inquiry's report found failings by specific named organisations in relation to the Grenfell fire.

New powers under the Procurement Act will be used to investigate seven of the organisations criticised in the report. If certain grounds are met, their names will be added to a published debarment list which must be taken into account by contracting authorities when awarding new contracts.

5 A legacy of justice for the Grenfell community

The government states that it remains fully committed to supporting the bereaved families, survivors and residents long-term, as well as to working with the independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission to ensure a fitting and lasting memorial, determined by the community. This will serve as a permanent tribute to honour those lives lost and those whose lives were changed forever.

The transformation set out in the announcement are aimed to not only fix the failures of the past but about ensuring a safer future for generations to come. The

highest safety standards will be embedded into the 1.5 million homes the government is committed to delivering in this Parliament, ensuring that every new home meets robust safety requirements.

The government response makes it clear that there is still much more to do, and it states that it is committed to taking decisive action in response to every recommendation.

6 Next steps and implementation

The government commits that its progress towards implementing Inquiry recommendations will be published every quarter from mid-2025. Also, they will provide an annual update to Parliament to ensure wider scrutiny of the pace and direction of work.

It is stated that the government will deliver reform using a phased approach over the course of this Parliament, bringing together the recommendations directed at government and wider reform as coherent packages. The first phase (2025 to 2026) will focus on making sure that the government effectively deliver the current programme of regulatory reform and change. The second phase (2026 to 2028) will focus on having fully developed proposals to deliver recommendations and wider reform, including via legislation. From 2028 onwards, the Government will focus on implementing these reforms.

The new system will be kept under review to evaluate its effectiveness and ensure it is delivering the intended improvements to residents' lives and the government reports that it will make sure that they are taking on residents' feedback as part of the evaluation.

The government advise the response to the Inquiry marks the start of a new relationship between government and industry that is based on transparency, clarity, collective responsibility and external scrutiny. A commitment to hold to account the actors in the system, to enforce standards, steward the highest standards of culture and behaviour and facilitate transparent conversations is also made in the response.

In addition, there is an expectation put on the industry to take responsibility to instil this change, and it is stated that safe housing is not a privilege but a fundamental right, and the reforms are designed to ensure that this right is upheld in every community.

A [Green Paper](#) was also launched on 26 February 2025 which includes detailed proposals for system wide reform of the construction products regime.

7 Other measures

In addition to the measure set out in response to the recommendations, it was also announced that other measures were being introduced.

- Raising standards by consulting on a new College of Fire and Rescue later in 2025 to improve training and professionalism of firefighters.
- Stopping unqualified individuals from making critical fire safety decisions, by legally requiring fire risk assessors to have their competence certified.
- Continuing implementation of new Residential PEEPs policy to improve the fire safety and evacuation of disabled and vulnerable residents in high-rise and higher-risk residential buildings, engaging with relevant stakeholders on the implementation.

APSE Comment

In an [article](#) in LocalGov published in September 2024 in response to the publication of the second Grenfell Tower Inquiry Report, APSE Chief Executive, Mo Baines stated that the report identified 'systematic failures' in the regulatory function of building control and called for an end to the hollowing out of public service capacity.

Therefore, it is welcomed that the government has accepted the findings of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry full report and plans to act on all 58 of the recommendations.

The published response from the government appears to be light on details at stage, with proposals for further reviews, consultations and Green Paper regarding construction products reform.

APSE supports the governments commitment to embed the highest safety standards into the 1.5 million homes that are targeted to be built in the lifetime of this parliament, and APSE believes that profits should not be prioritised over safety. However, the full implications on the housing sector need to be understood to ensure that there is the required skills, knowledge and capacity in the workforce and wider sector to implement the changes and that safety is not seen as a barrier to building much needed homes.

Vickie Hacking
Principal Advisor

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