



PRESS RELEASE - TERMS OF REFERENCE PUBLICATION

Grenfell Legal Support welcomes to publication of the Terms of Reference on 15 August 2017, along with publication of the correspondence between the Chair of the Inquiry, Sir Martin Moore-Bick and the Prime Minister, Theresa May. However, we raise the following concerns:-

1. Important issues were raised by affected people and supporting organisations and these will not be addressed in the Public Inquiry. For example, the role that social housing policy and discrimination has played in this disaster. We note the government will be submitting further proposals about addressing the '*wider*' issues in a separate forum, and we await details of this.
2. Given such integral issues have been left out, the Prime Minister appears to have reneged on her promise that '*no stone will be left unturned*' during this Inquiry process. Many feel that the systemic issues of discrimination and the lack of investment into social housing had contributed significantly to the fire, and the fact that these issues have been left out notwithstanding loud and clear calls for the same is likely to compound further the issue of mistrust in this process.
3. We note that many were critical of Sir Martin Moore-Bick's professional background and suitability for the role as Chair to the Inquiry and, indeed, many called for his recusal. We are concerned that this has been totally ignored in statements by the Inquiry or the Prime Minister.
4. We call for the anonymised publication of all proposals put forward during this consultation process, as well as the *draft Terms of Reference* referred to by Baroness Evans at the House of Lords on 22 June 2017. This is essential in ensuring transparency and building trust that there has in fact been a fair and effective consultation process.
5. Sir Martin Moore-Bick has stated that he thinks it is "*likely*" that he will wish to appoint a diverse group of people as assessors under section 11 of the Inquiries Act. The Inquiry *must* be more definitive and must provide full details of how such individuals will be selected.
6. We call on the government to urgently provide full details of funding for legal representation. This is critical in ensuring that the interests of justice are served.
7. Finally, we call for the Home Office to grant Indefinite Leave to remain for any former residents of Grenfell Tower who have an irregular immigration status. The 12 month amnesty referred to is wholly inadequate, and this will inevitably lead to key witnesses to the Inquiry and Criminal Investigation remaining in hiding for fear of deportation after 12 months.

15 August 2017

Note to Editors:

GLS are a volunteer service assisting bereaved families, survivors and residents with legal and pastoral needs. We provide information to affected persons and are assisting with coordinating the legal effort along with instructed law firms and other coordinating bodies. **GLS do not act as legal representatives for affected people.**

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