



Rt Hon. Boris Johnson
Prime Minister

3 December 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to raise our deep and grave concerns that a Grenfell-like fire is going to occur again. There have been eight residential fires since Grenfell, each more serious than the last.

It is our conviction that a serious fire in the UK, leading to loss of life, will occur in a building wrapped in combustible materials unless you act. We warned the Government verbally at Housing Select Committee in June 2018. Upon receipt of this letter we will again have formally warned of our deep concerns.

The Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1 Report published in October evidenced beyond doubt that the combustible materials on Grenfell promoted the spread of the fire. These and other combustible materials are still on buildings up and down the country; including homes, schools, student accommodation, hospitals and care homes.

Two and a half years since the Grenfell fire, there has been no effort to identify the buildings most at risk or to prioritise work on the basis of safety. The remedial fund to remove ACM cladding has not been successful with cladding still present on 318 out of 436 affected buildings. We still do not even know the number of buildings with dangerous materials of other kinds – although experts predict it will run into thousands. Buildings below the arbitrary height threshold of 18M have also not been considered.

The Bolton fire must be the final warning. Action is needed now.

Government must take responsibility for this crisis. The government in Victoria, Australia has set an example establishing a national taskforce with legal powers, a priority list of buildings and an innovative funding model including a development levy to ensure the construction industry bear some of the costs. It is deeply frustrating that the government of the country where Grenfell happened has taken less decisive action.

We are sharing our concerns in writing with leaders from all main parties. We believe this is an issue of public safety that transcends party politics. People living in dangerous buildings need to hear urgently that the next Government will act to make them safe.

We make this ask in memory of the 72 loved ones we lost to the Grenfell fire. We must not let anyone else suffer what they suffered. We must make sure their deaths are not in vain. It is too late to save our loved ones, but it is not too late to save others.

Natasha Elcock
Chair, Grenfell United