

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Leasehold and
Commonhold Reform
Via email: martin.boyd@leaseholdknowledge.com

18th February 2020

Dear Co-Chairs,

Re: Meeting with High Rise Residents and photo

I would like to invite you to a rally and to meet residents living in high rise accommodation in Greater Manchester and beyond who continue to suffer from the lack of Government support and action since the fire at Grenfell Tower. We are calling on the Government to provide immediate financial support in the Budget to those who continue to suffer each day through no fault of their own.

A rally will take place at 1pm on Tuesday 25 February at Old Palace Yard, next to Abingdon Green followed by an opportunity for Members of Parliament to meet residents and have a photo from 1.30pm.

Over two years on from the Grenfell Tower fire, Greater Manchester still has 78 buildings that have adopted interim measures because of significant fire safety deficiencies. 59 of these buildings are privately owned and leaseholders are believed to be liable for funding the work on all of these buildings.

In Greater Manchester, I created the Task Force in response to the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower. Chaired by Salford Mayor, Paul Dennett, the Task Force brings together the fire service, local authorities, landlords, building control, senior civil servants, universities and other specialists to provide a co-ordinated response to the risk in high-rise residential buildings. In a survey of residents coordinated by the Task Force:

- 70% of residents living in high rise buildings said they are worried about a fire in their building;
- Over 50% of owner occupiers told us they were suffering from increased service charge costs. One resident reported an increase from £90 to £400 a month, and another faces an increase to £1000 a month to cover the cost of remediation, and;
- Residents feel that fire safety risks and the associated financial costs is having an impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

Recently, Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Chair of the High Rise Task Force and I heard concerns from residents. Some of their comments are below:

"It's on my mind every day, I don't know what money I will have month on month and I don't know what is going to come next."

"We don't have a sellable property unless we pay £30,000 to make the building safe."

GMCA, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

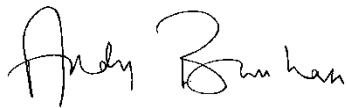
<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

The Government continues to say that developers should take responsibility for their properties and pay for remediation works, but this approach has failed. Residents should not have to suffer due to the national failure of the regulatory system and poor construction practices. For example, the cladding on the Cube in Bolton, which caught fire in November 2019, was not the same as that on the Grenfell Tower and not the only factor that caused the fire to spread.

The Government must support those now who desperately need support and work with us to develop a solution that protects those in the future.

We hope you will be able to attend and show your support for those who are trapped in an unacceptable position through no fault of their own.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Burnham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Dennett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Dennett
Salford City Mayor