# Grenfell survivors urge faster bans on firms implicated as tower demolition nears



As the eighth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire approaches, survivors and bereaved families are vocalising their frustrations over the slow pace of government actions intended to ban companies implicated in the tragedy from securing public contracts. On Saturday, members of the community in west London will gather to commemorate the disaster that claimed 72 lives, a somber occasion made more poignant by the impending demolition of the tower itself, which could begin next month.

Edward Daffarn, a former resident of Grenfell Tower and an outspoken advocate for justice, has raised concerns about the government’s efforts, which he deems insufficiently swift. He stated that this year's memorial will resonate more deeply, emphasizing the significance of the tower's eventual demolition as a physical reminder of unresolved issues surrounding accountability. Moreover, he highlighted that a forthcoming documentary set to air on Netflix has the potential to put renewed pressure on the government to take decisive action against the companies involved in the refurbishment that led to the fire. "One thing that this documentary needs to do is it needs to put pressure on the Government to ensure that the companies involved are not able to access public funding," Daffarn expressed, hoping for accelerated progress as such narratives reach a wider audience.

In February, the Cabinet Office confirmed investigations into seven companies associated with Grenfell, including well-known firms such as Arconic and Kingspan. These entities were identified in the final report of the Grenfell Tower public inquiry, which concluded in September. It found that the organisations acted with "systematic dishonesty," highlighting how their practices contributed directly to the disaster. Investigations aim to determine whether these companies engaged in professional misconduct under the Procurement Act 2023, with the possibility of barring them from future public contracts.

While the government has begun these investigative processes, Daffarn described the timeline as "too slow," noting that bereaved individuals are still awaiting justice after years of stasis. The inquiry’s findings, which implicated various entities in negligent practices, are yet to yield legal consequences, and the families are left grappling with the enduring aftermath of their losses. Current estimates from law enforcement suggest that the broader investigation into the fire could stretch into late 2026, adding to the families' feelings of helplessness and frustration.

The decision to ultimately demolish Grenfell Tower has also met with mixed reactions from the community. Some residents and relatives feel that the building should stand as a permanent memorial to the victims, while others support the demolition as a necessary step toward healing. Daffarn has articulated the discomfort felt by many: "It feels wrong to be pulling the tower down while so much remains unresolved." This reflects broader sentiments in the community, where the site of the fire continues to evoke painful memories for many.

Government authorities have responded by reiterating their commitment to remembering the victims and ensuring that such a tragedy never occurs again. However, the community remains sceptical, echoing concerns about accountability and the adequacy of reforms in the construction sector. Proposed changes from the inquiry suggest a comprehensive overhaul of safety regulations, including a new construction regulator and tighter enforcement of safety standards, which have yet to be fully realised.

As families gather this weekend to honour their loved ones, many hope that both public awareness and governmental accountability will increase. Daffarn’s call for the public to avoid products from companies implicated in the Grenfell fire serves as both an urgent appeal for justice and a reminder of the ongoing ramifications of this terrible disaster.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/move-faster-on-firms-public-contracts-ban-grenfell-survivor-urges-government-M7CNAIMCKRILNPECVCGF7VBNUM/), [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/2ac45a44-661d-4e3b-829f-c91a4957066e)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/move-faster-on-firms-public-contracts-ban-grenfell-survivor-urges-government-M7CNAIMCKRILNPECVCGF7VBNUM/), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britain-investigate-firms-named-grenfell-tower-fire-inquiry-2025-02-26/), [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/f97ae96c6f8f1a948c2050c7aa770154)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2024/09/04/grenfell-tower-fire-final-report-delivers-damning-verdict_6724781_19.html), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/948e9c02-2173-48dc-b5a0-79e2446f6ee9)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/2ac45a44-661d-4e3b-829f-c91a4957066e), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/948e9c02-2173-48dc-b5a0-79e2446f6ee9)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/move-faster-on-firms-public-contracts-ban-grenfell-survivor-urges-government-M7CNAIMCKRILNPECVCGF7VBNUM/), [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/f97ae96c6f8f1a948c2050c7aa770154)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/move-faster-on-firms-public-contracts-ban-grenfell-survivor-urges-government-M7CNAIMCKRILNPECVCGF7VBNUM/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britain-investigate-firms-named-grenfell-tower-fire-inquiry-2025-02-26/> - The UK government has initiated investigations into companies involved in the 2016 refurbishment of Grenfell Tower, which utilised flammable cladding linked to the 2017 fire that resulted in 72 fatalities. These firms, including construction contractors and cladding manufacturers, may face bans from public contracts if found culpable. This action follows the final report of a public inquiry identifying these companies' roles in the disaster. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner emphasised the need for accountability and strict measures, such as a new construction industry regulator and potential jail time or fines for executives violating safety rules. A criminal investigation into the fire is ongoing, with potential charges not expected until late 2026. The government also aims to empower residents with stronger legal rights to demand safety from landlords, aiming to prevent future tragedies like Grenfell.
3. <https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2024/09/04/grenfell-tower-fire-final-report-delivers-damning-verdict_6724781_19.html> - On June 14, 2017, a catastrophic fire broke out at Grenfell Tower in North Kensington, London, leading to 72 deaths. The final report, published on September 4, 2024, after an independent inquiry, revealed severe failures and negligence in the building’s refurbishment and regulatory oversight. Essential conclusions include inappropriate use of highly flammable ACM cladding, negligence by the Ministry of Local Authorities, and regulatory circumvention by manufacturers and construction bodies. The Building Research Establishment failed to enforce fire safety rigorously. There were widespread systemic issues in construction practices, regulatory oversight, and inadequate emergency response training. The report underscores the failure to heed warnings from past fire incidents and necessitates simplified responsibility chains and strict regulatory reforms. Efforts to retrofit buildings with safer cladding continue, but widespread incompetence persists in the construction sector. The families of the victims seek justice, with possible legal proceedings anticipated from 2026.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/2ac45a44-661d-4e3b-829f-c91a4957066e> - The final report from the public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire, which resulted in 72 deaths, highlights significant failings due to government incompetence and corporate greed. The inquiry attributes blame to multiple parties including cladding and insulation manufacturers Arconic, Celotex, and Kingspan who manipulated safety tests and misled the market. Additionally, regulatory failures at national and local levels are identified, with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the London Fire Brigade criticised for negligence and ineffective management. The report calls for comprehensive reforms in building safety regulations, including the creation of a new construction regulator, single-department responsibility for fire safety, and a contractor licensing scheme. The government is considering sanctions against offending companies, and criminal investigations are ongoing. Victims' families demand manslaughter charges, while previously settled civil cases did not preclude future criminal proceedings. The report advocates for sweeping industry changes to prevent future tragedies.
5. <https://apnews.com/article/f97ae96c6f8f1a948c2050c7aa770154> - Some survivors of the 2017 Grenfell fire in London, which claimed 72 lives, are expressing anger over government plans to demolish the tower block where the tragedy occurred. They wish to preserve the building as a memorial for the deceased. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner met with relatives and survivors but did not provide specific reasons for the demolition decision, leading to criticism from Grenfell United, a group representing the bereaved. While some view the building as a necessary memorial, others believe that redeveloping the site could assist in community healing. The government has promised no changes until at least June 2025. A public inquiry identified a series of systemic failures as contributing factors to the disaster.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/948e9c02-2173-48dc-b5a0-79e2446f6ee9> - The UK government intends to ban companies identified in the Grenfell Tower public inquiry from securing public contracts. The 2017 fire resulted in 72 fatalities and revealed "decades of failure" by the government and parts of the construction industry. The government has committed to all 58 recommendations from the six-year inquiry report, which includes reforms to construction materials testing and regulation. Companies such as Arconic, Kingspan, and Celotex, were found to have acted dishonestly, prioritising profit over safety. Proposed reforms include civil and criminal penalties for misleading practices. The government plans to use procurement legislation to investigate and potentially ban these companies from government contracts. The Metropolitan Police are also investigating, focusing on 19 organisations and 58 individuals. Companies’ responses range from denying misconduct to acknowledging past failings. The inquiry highlighted regulatory gaps, prompting government efforts to tighten product safety and standard enforcement.
7. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grenfell-tower-inquiry-phase-2-report-government-response/grenfell-tower-inquiry-phase-2-report-government-response-html> - The UK government has responded to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's final report, accepting all 58 recommendations and outlining plans for implementation. Key actions include establishing a new single construction regulator to hold those responsible for building safety accountable, implementing tougher oversight of construction product testing, manufacturing, and usage, and introducing a legal duty of candour through a new 'Hillsborough Law' to ensure transparency in major incidents. Additionally, the government is committed to providing stronger, clearer, and enforceable legal rights for residents, making landlords responsible for acting on safety concerns. These measures aim to prevent future tragedies like Grenfell and ensure all homes are safe, secure, and built to the highest standards.