# Grenfell survivors condemn officials’ continued roles in housing eight years on



Survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire have voiced their outrage over the continuing employment of officials associated with the tragedy, describing it as “a deep and bitter injustice.” This disappointment resonates particularly as the eighth anniversary of the devastating fire approaches, with many involved in its mismanagement still holding influential roles in the housing sector. A spokesperson for Grenfell United expressed the intense ongoing pain felt by survivors, emphasising that while they continue to grieve and seek justice, those responsible continue their careers largely unscathed.

The individuals in question include key figures such as Laura Johnson, the former director of housing at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC). Findings from the public inquiry indicated that Johnson took actions that compromised fire safety, including delaying the installation of essential fire door mechanisms despite recommendations from the London Fire Brigade for their urgent implementation. Instead of facing accountability, she now occupies a significant position at Barnet Homes, managing properties that house thousands, which raises concerns about the oversight of safety protocols in communal living environments.

Another figure, Brian Martin, who held responsibility for building regulations, has also remained in the sector, later serving as a fire safety expert in a tribunal. Although he has acknowledged failures leading up to the fire, including a controversial approach to safety regulations, he benefited from a prolonged career within the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government until recent years. These developments signal a systemic failure to hold individuals accountable for decisions that have had catastrophic consequences.

Deborah French, a key player at Arconic—the company that supplied the highly combustible cladding used in Grenfell—also faced scrutiny. During her testimony, she admitted awareness of the risks posed by the material she promoted but did not adequately inform her clients. This lack of transparency raises questions about ethical responsibilities within the construction materials sector, especially as major public safety concerns surrounding cladding remain unresolved across the UK.

Nicholas Paget-Brown, the former leader of RBKC, resigned under pressure after the fire but has since transitioned to a consulting role, evidently maintaining influence in public policy discussions. His initial resistance to resigning amidst criticism highlights a troubling trend about prioritising institutional reputation over community safety and well-being.

The inquiry into the Grenfell fire, lasting over seven years, has unveiled serious systemic failures across various sectors and called for rigorous reforms. Sir Martin Moore-Bick, who led the inquiry, pointed to a breakdown in regulatory oversight and practices that ultimately allowed for the tragedy to occur. Findings indicate not only negligence directly linked to local authorities but also involve broader corporate malfeasance by firms like Arconic and others that misrepresented safety data during product marketing.

As the Metropolitan Police continue their investigation into potential criminal wrongdoing, survivors and bereaved families have expressed frustration over the slow pace of justice. With over 58 individuals and 19 organisations currently under scrutiny, the fallout from the fire remains unresolved. This ongoing process has cost more than £107 million and continues to unfold as further evidence comes to light.

Festering anger among the Grenfell community calls for an urgent reassessment of accountability frameworks within both public and private sectors associated with housing. Survivors argue that without real consequences for those responsible, public trust diminishes, and the values of accountability and safety in UK society are put into question. As discussions around rebuilding efforts and memorial considerations gain momentum, it becomes increasingly clear that the Grenfell tragedy is not just a reflection of a failure at a single point but a complex web of negligence that warrants thorough examination and systemic change.

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* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/eab4e3ad-cb63-4516-bae7-9053900617b5)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/dozens-people-groups-are-suspects-2017-london-housing-blaze-2024-05-22/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire), [[5]](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2024/09/04/grenfell-tower-fire-final-report-delivers-damning-verdict_6724781_19.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire), [[6]](https://www.apnews.com/article/5aebcfdd76bbd59a57f734aa012da248)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/eab4e3ad-cb63-4516-bae7-9053900617b5), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/dozens-people-groups-are-suspects-2017-london-housing-blaze-2024-05-22/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire), [[6]](https://www.apnews.com/article/5aebcfdd76bbd59a57f734aa012da248)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/14/a-slap-in-the-face-grenfell-officials-still-working-in-housing-eight-years-after-fire> - This article from The Guardian discusses the ongoing employment of officials implicated in the Grenfell Tower fire disaster, highlighting the survivors' condemnation of the lack of consequences for those responsible. It details the cases of individuals such as Laura Johnson, Brian Martin, Deborah French, and Nicholas Paget-Brown, who have continued their careers in housing and local government despite their roles in the tragedy. The piece underscores the survivors' call for accountability and justice, questioning the values of a society that allows such individuals to remain in positions of influence.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/eab4e3ad-cb63-4516-bae7-9053900617b5> - An article from the Financial Times examining the systemic failures and negligence that led to the Grenfell Tower fire, which resulted in 72 deaths. The piece discusses the findings of a seven-year inquiry led by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, revealing that companies like Arconic, Celotex, and Kingspan manipulated safety data and misled buyers. It also highlights the ongoing issues with unsafe cladding on buildings and the financial strain on leaseholders, calling for substantial reforms in the construction industry and building safety regulations.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/dozens-people-groups-are-suspects-2017-london-housing-blaze-2024-05-22/> - Reuters reports on the ongoing investigation into the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire, noting that 58 individuals and 19 organizations are under scrutiny, with criminal charges expected to take years. The article details the complexities of the investigation, which involves 180 officers and has already cost over £107 million. It also discusses the exacerbating role of combustible cladding in the fire's spread and the anticipated timeline for charging decisions, expected by the end of 2026.
5. <https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2024/09/04/grenfell-tower-fire-final-report-delivers-damning-verdict_6724781_19.html> - Le Monde's article covers the final report of the independent inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire, published on September 4, 2024. The report reveals severe failures and negligence in the building's refurbishment and regulatory oversight, including the inappropriate use of highly flammable cladding and regulatory circumvention by manufacturers and construction bodies. It underscores systemic issues in construction practices, regulatory oversight, and emergency response training, calling for simplified responsibility chains and strict regulatory reforms.
6. <https://www.apnews.com/article/5aebcfdd76bbd59a57f734aa012da248> - The Associated Press reports on the UK government's decision to demolish the remains of Grenfell Tower nearly eight years after the deadly fire that claimed 72 lives. The decision has faced criticism from some bereaved families who wished to preserve the building as a monument. The government cited structural safety concerns and the need for community healing in its decision to demolish the tower, with materials from the demolition to be used to create a memorial.
7. <https://www.ft.com/content/66e5478a-8e90-4366-a264-37860ab431e9> - An article from the Financial Times discussing the UK's cladding fund and its potential to enable the construction of 90,000 affordable homes. Councils and housing providers have urged the government to include affordable housing in the 'Building Safety Fund' and 'Cladding Safety Scheme' to prevent leaseholders from bearing the cost of removing unsafe cladding. The piece highlights the financial strain on social housing providers and the potential benefits of including social landlords in the funds.