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**8 June 2022**

**CC: Priti Patel MP**

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**RE: Implementing the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (Phase 1) Recommendations**

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you today, due to your previous public commitment to implement the Grenfell tower inquiry recommendations. Disability Rights UK has written previously to the government regarding the issue of Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) for Disabled people who are unable to self-evacuate in a fire - but received no response.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017, as residents of Grenfell Tower were escaping the fire that swept through the building, Disabled residents were trapped in their homes. At the time, the guidance for Disabled residents was to 'stay put' instead of evacuating. As a result, 40% of the Disabled residents of the tower lost their lives that day, not including family and friends who would have decided they could not leave them to be alone at the end.

In October 2019, over two years after the fire, the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (Phase 1) included the following recommendation:

*"That the owner and manager of every high-rise residential building be required by law to prepare personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEPs) for all residents whose ability to self-evacuate may be compromised (such as persons with reduced mobility or cognition)."*

In the same month, you confirmed in the House of Commons that *"where Sir Martin recommends responsibility for fire safety be taken on by central government, we will legislate accordingly"*,

including outlining your plans to “accept in principle all of the recommendations that Sir Martin makes of central government”.

Nearly three years later, your government has yet to implement a single recommendation from the Grenfell Inquiry.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022, following a consultation on how to implement PEEPs in 2021, the government announced that they were refusing PEEPs and instead have launched a consultation on emergency information sharing. The reasons cited for this decision in the House of Lords were “practicality”, “proportionality” and “safety” – including examples of “excessive costs” and the suggestion that the implementation of PEEPs would prevent non-Disabled residents from evacuating. We would ask you and your government what evidence you have that the – often not costly – implementation of PEEPs is a disproportionate response to saving a life.

As we approach the 5-year anniversary of Grenfell fire, the safety of Disabled residents has not changed. Those unable to self-evacuate are forced to live every day knowing that they cannot access a safe means of escape. Many of these individuals also still live in buildings with dangerous cladding.

It’s been clear throughout the handling of this issue that the safety and lives of Disabled people is not a priority for your government. Aside from a complete lack and delay in action, we have also called on ministers previously regarding their inappropriate and unethical decision to re-hire Colin Todd to write the new fire safety guidance. Despite Todd’s initial guidance to ‘stay put’ being widely discredited by experts in the field, and his consistent ableist remarks online leaving Disabled residents feeling unsafe as he denies their right to evacuate safely in a fire.

For an issue so vitally important and time sensitive, we hope that the government will now choose to act on the inquiry’s recommendations. We ask that you withdraw the information sharing consultation, and that you commit to implementing the inquiry’s recommendation of a legal obligation to implement PEEPs – as you publicly committed to in 2019.

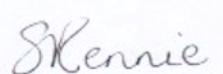
As we approach 5 years since 72 people died in an avoidable fire, where Disabled lives were lost because they were not given a means to escape - we ask the government to act, as promised.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,



**Kamran Mallick**  
CEO of Disability Rights UK



**Sarah Rennie and Georgie Hulme**  
Co-Founders of Claddag



**Natasha Elcock**  
Chair of Grenfell United