

# The Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Key Issues, Key Findings

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## What happened?

Fire starts on 14 June 2017 - c.27 months ago

72 people died

Last fire in England on any comparable scale... 1887 (Theatre Royal)

## Initial reaction

Chaos and lack of responsibility

- RBKC / TMO / Central Government – who should do what?
- People sleeping in sports hall
- Chaotic response to interim accommodation
- Initial promises plainly unrealistic (PM's promise to re-house within 6 months...)

Tower a crime scene and police take the lead

Two weeks to cool sufficiently to allow people in

Would it collapse?

## How many strands?

- 1) The Inquiry
- 2) Police investigation (and ultimately charges and trials?)
- 3) Civil claims (UK and US)
- 4) Coroner

## The Inquiry

Understand the purpose and limitations

- Establish facts but cannot determine civil or criminal liability
- Make recommendations for the future
- Restore public confidence?

Two phases

Phase 1 – the events of the night

## Phase 1

21 May 2018: Commemoration hearings

4 June 2018: evidential evidence begins

10 December 2018: Phase 1 closing submissions

?? ?? ?? Report

## What do we know?

Phase 1 report not published yet but we know

- Very rapid spread of fire.
- 1st 999 call just before 1am, reached the top floor by 01:24
- Stay put - told to remain until 02:47
- 04.44 – all four faces of the building are ablaze

Also know that tenants were ignored

- Grenfell Action Group Blog predicted this
- Residents petitioned MP, councillors, had meetings, formed group etc – just ignored
- What else could they have done? Inadequacies of housing law

## Phase 2

Responsibility – how did the tower get into this state?

- Looking at the refurbishment project

Recommendations for reform?

- Central government and the regulatory regime

Start early 2020 – runs until.....



**Thank you for listening**

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