

# **RBKC Labour Opposition Group**

**Kensington Town Hall, London W8 7NX**

**Councillor Pat Mason**  
**Leader of the Labour Opposition Group**  
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Sir Martin Moore-Bick  
Chairman,  
Grenfell Tower Fire Public Inquiry  
Holborn Bars,  
138-142 Holborn,  
London EC1N 2SW

cc: John Cooper QC

Dear Sir Martin Moore-Bick,

**Request regarding Phase 2 of the Inquiry: That you call former and serving government Ministers to answer why they failed to take meaningful actions to reform their not-fit-for-purpose fire and building regulations after the Lakanal House Fire, in particular, that might have prevented other similar fires including the Grenfell Tower Fire that killed 72 residents of North Kensington**

My reading of the Inquiry Terms of Reference, paragraph (c), leads me to believe that you will be able to call Ministers to the Inquiry, since the paragraph states that the Inquiry will look at:

“the scope and adequacy of building regulations, fire regulations and other legislation, guidance and industry practice relating to the design, construction, equipping and management of high-rise residential buildings”.

When the Inquiry resumes in early 2020, I request that you call the following persons to account for their actions or inaction:

- David Cameron, former Prime Minister.
- Eric Pickles MP, former Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

- Brandon Lewis MP, former Housing Minister.
- Stephen Williams, former MP
- James Wharton, former MP
- Gavin Barwell, former MP and Housing Minister
- Teresa May, former Prime Minister

I feel certain that you will have read far too many reports already about past and present Ministers who astounded and continue to astound North Kensington residents and Labour Councillors by failing to act with speed to reform fire and building regulations that even Dame Judith Hackitt, in her Independent Review of Building Regulations, concluded are not fit for purpose.

I enclose Inside Housing's "Special Investigation-The lost lessons of Lakanal: how politicians missed the chance to stop Grenfell", written by Peter Apps on this, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lakanal fire where 6 people died. You will see, included, the letter from Her Honour Frances Kirkham CBE, who presided at the Lakanal Inquest and the reply from Eric Pickles, then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Reports such as this lead the public, and especially many people in North Kensington, to believe that government ministers are able to act as if they are above the law because they may believe they will never be held accountable in any Inquiry. I cannot think of any Inquiry, Court or Inquest where they have been called to account for their actions – so perhaps such a belief may be well founded.

The Bereaved Families and Survivors of an atrocity that caused the worst loss of life in peacetime deserve to know why these government Ministers who could and should have taken action – indeed they had a duty to take action - that might have prevented the Grenfell Tower Fire, failed to do so. The People of North Kensington deserve to hear their answers.

We expect you to prove to us all that you believe that no one is above the law – in this case government Ministers whose job it was to promote fire and building regulations that will stop its citizens burning to death.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Pat Mason