



## Education, Care and Health Services

Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH

Telephone: 020 8464 3333

Direct Line: 020 8313 4060 Internet: [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

Email: [doug.patterson@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:doug.patterson@bromley.gov.uk)

Our Reference: DP/pje/letters/KAA 290618

Via Email to:  
The Governors of  
Kensington Aldridge Academy

29<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Governors of Kensington Aldridge Academy,

I am writing to provide you with information about the management of Grenfell Tower site in my role as independent Site Management lead.

My team and I are committed to working with KAA and the wider community to minimise disruption caused by ongoing and any future works at Grenfell Tower. We have already been working with your school for some months ahead of the proposed return to your original site in September 2018. This has included the reconfiguration of the site hoarding to ensure safe fire escape routes from the school as well as participation at your meetings with governors and parents.

I thought it would be helpful to set out information about the Grenfell Tower site, as I know this will be a relevant consideration for KAA Trustees as they consider a return to the Silchester Road site.

I have divided this into two parts starting with the stability of the Tower, wrapping and scaffolding and followed by the future of the Tower. This is the best level of assurance that I can provide at the moment, but I commit to continue to work closely with you whatever the outcome of the decision.

### Structural Stability of Grenfell Tower

- Grenfell Tower is closely monitored and managed. Specialist structural engineering advice continues to inform the site management, and specific investigations are ongoing into the structural stability of the Tower in the longer-term. We are presently awaiting the results of a structural survey.
- Despite the significant damage to the exterior of the building, the structural concrete frame of Grenfell Tower is stable and the risk to public safety is negligible. This has been confirmed by a range of experts, including an independent surveyor, structural engineering consultants and the Health and Safety Executive.

- Over 3500 props have been installed inside the building to reinforce the areas which experienced greater damage and maintain the stability of the Tower. They are checked weekly to detect any sign of change.
- The stability of the building is monitored 24/7 by a sophisticated system which alerts personnel within when movement is detected. This remote monitoring is supplemented with daily manual inspections and regular visual floor-by-floor checks by the dangerous structures engineer and HSE.
- To assist the police investigation, scaffolding was constructed to enable the removal of evidence. This scaffolding was completed on 10 June 2018. A detailed specification was developed for the scaffolding, which has been checked and verified by a third party specialist engineer during both the design and construction stages.
- The design also included a protective wrapping on the scaffolding. This offers some protection to the building against the weather and ensures that any small items of debris falling from the Tower are contained within the wrapping. Scaffold wrapping is also typically used to help reduce the volume of dust leaving construction sites.

### Deconstruction

I appreciate that KAA Trustees have questions about the possible deconstruction of Grenfell Tower.

As you know, no decision has yet been taken about the future of the Tower nor has a timeframe been set out for a decision. As you are aware, this is a sensitive matter of great importance to the community, especially the bereaved and survivors. The site remains the subject of a police investigation, which must take priority. There are also ongoing visits to the Tower by core participants and expert witnesses from the Public Inquiry.

Any decision about the future of the Tower will be one for public authorities, working in consultation with the Police and the Public Inquiry to ensure that it does not jeopardise criminal justice processes or the Inquiry.

If I may offer a personal view at this point based on all the information I have to date, I consider that the Tower will, in time, need to be deconstructed to ensure the long term safety. It is not so much a question of 'if' but more a question of 'when'. Again I can give no assurances over timelines as at this stage I still have insufficient information.

The circumstances of Grenfell Tower are unique and require specific consideration but the deconstruction of large buildings in built up areas is common. Based on our knowledge of the building and similar work carried out elsewhere, we have started to develop some planning assumptions relating to deconstruction. These are set out below and reflect our best knowledge at this time. We will only be able to confirm the specific details for this site when a decision to deconstruct has been made.

- Any nearby occupied buildings and local infrastructure will be taken into account when developing the deconstruction methodology. This will be reflected in robust terms in relevant contracts to ensure deconstruction is carried out properly and with consideration of the requirements of all stakeholders.

- Due to the nature of the incident and the proximity of other buildings the most likely method of deconstruction will be a progressive top-down approach. This would likely be a prolonged process.
- Deconstruction will occur within the current scaffolding and wrapping, and there should be no reason that nearby buildings cannot be occupied during this time.
- As with any deconstruction of a reinforced concrete building, there will be noise and dust generated. Until a demolition contractor has been appointed it is difficult to confirm the detail of how noisy, dusty or disruptive any deconstruction will be.
- All reasonable and practicable steps will be taken to reduce the volume of dust and noise being generated. We are also seeking to implement best practice from other projects, specifically those which have close proximity to schools, to learn from their experience.

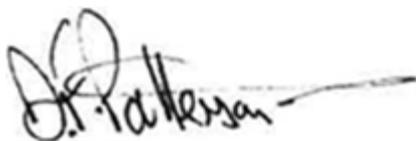
In the event that as governors you take the decision to return to your school you have my assurance that I am committed to working with you and the community to find ways to minimise the disruption associated with deconstruction. I will also ensure that your concerns are factored into the discussions about deconstruction from the outset. There will be opportunities for stakeholders in the local community, including KAA, to comment on the deconstruction method statement prior to any deconstruction activity starting.

I remain committed to working with you, residents and the wider community during all stages of the works on site. I would be happy to set up regular meetings with you to keep these factors under review and to explore ways in which it might be appropriate to involve your students in the coming months. I hope this also provides you with a level of assurance that any information relevant to KAA's decision will be shared as soon as it is available.

What I cannot do is provide you or anyone else with a veto over my decision making particularly in the context mentioned earlier of the ultimate decisions about the Tower being the responsibility of the public authorities.

I regret that I am unable to provide any more information until the appropriate decisions have been made and contractors selected but repeat my assurance that I will ensure a high level of engagement with the Academy as we move forward.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Patterson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Doug Patterson  
Chief Executive  
London Borough of Bromley &  
Independent Site Management Lead, Grenfell