



Home Office

**Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP**  
**Minister for Grenfell Victims**  
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15<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Dear all,**

In October, I confirmed additional environmental checks would be carried out on and around the Grenfell Tower site. This follows on from media reports on early research carried out by Professor Anna Stec, that toxins had been identified in the soil.

The additional environmental checks are to ensure that I know the full picture of any potential risk of land contamination in the area, and what action might need to be taken.

### **Environmental checks**

The environmental checks will be carried out in two stages. In the first stage, an independent specialist will investigate the area and pull together all relevant background information, including a site survey and any potential historical sources of pollution. An 'initial risk assessment' report setting out the independent expert's initial findings and analysis will then be published. It is expected that this stage will take about three months from start to finish.

Stage two will involve a site investigation, a detailed risk assessment and the majority of the soil sampling. I anticipate that this stage will take an additional three months, further to stage one. The final report will tell us what has been found in the soil in the area, what the potential risk to health is and that appropriate action is taken.

To ensure that the local community is able to influence how the environmental checks are carried out, we will be holding a community consultation workshop on stage one.

My team will also keep everyone in the community updated through a series of localised and regular communication updates and if you have any further concerns, you can of course, reach out directly to them by emailing:

[environmental-checks@communities.gov.uk](mailto:environmental-checks@communities.gov.uk)

The Government's Chief Scientific Adviser has set up an independent Science Advisory Group to quality-check the scientific methodology, testing process and analysis of results at each stage of the programme.

## **Professor Stec's research**

Professor Stec's research is due to be published in a technical journal and could be reported on by more mainstream media outlets over the coming weeks.

She is a member of the thirteen-strong independent Science Advisory Group and her research has been carried out independently of this group and of the Government. I understand that independent soil tests have been undertaken by other organisations, and their findings will also feed into our programme.

I take your wellbeing extremely seriously, which is why I have commissioned this comprehensive programme of additional environmental checks.

I appreciate the frustration and anxiety that may be caused by other test results becoming available more quickly. However, I hope you will appreciate how important it is to get it right and create a testing process you can have full confidence in.

The advice to the public remains unchanged, however, if you have any concerns about your health please contact your GP. The NHS is also now offering enhanced health checks for local residents and you can find more information here: [www.grenfell.nhs.uk/physical-health](http://www.grenfell.nhs.uk/physical-health).

I will be in touch over the coming weeks and months and remain committed to keeping you updated.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Hurd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP**