



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

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Grenfell Tower Fire

Thank you for contacting me about support for those affected by the fire at Grenfell Tower.

The Grenfell Tower fire was one of the worst tragedies this nation has experienced in many years. It is impossible to comprehend what those affected by the fire have had to deal with. Following the tragedy, the Government is determined to ensure that those affected receive the support they need.

Ministers have been working with local government officials and organisations to provide support to the victims, both in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, and in the long term. The Autumn Budget 2017 committed £28 million of additional community support to victims, including new mental health services, regeneration support for the Lancaster West estate, and a new community space.

I welcome the work being done by the Government to address fire safety concerns. Following the final report of the Hackitt Review, the Government has announced plans to ban flammable cladding in high rise buildings and desktop fire safety studies, should consultations agree that this is the right course to take.

Moreover, I am pleased that the Government has announced it will meet the £400 million costs of remedial cladding work on social housing high rise buildings. This will help to speed up the work which is already well underway on the majority of these buildings with unsafe cladding.

The disaster at Grenfell Tower should never have happened: the police investigation and public inquiry will find out why it did, to ensure this can never happen again.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP