

Grenfell Tower Inquiry

PRESS NOTICE

18 August 2017

APPLICATIONS FOR CORE PARTICIPANT STATUS REQUESTED BY 8 SEPTEMBER

The Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry has taken its first formal step by asking people and organisations to apply for Core Participant status.

Becoming a Core Participant gives rights to:

- receiving in advance of hearings disclosure of evidence which the Chairman considers relevant to that core participant;
- making an opening and closing statement at certain hearings;
- suggesting lines of questioning to be pursued by Counsel to the Inquiry;
- their recognised legal representative may apply to the Chairman to ask questions of a witness

Information on how to apply for core participant status has been posted [on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's website](#).

Applications for core participant status need to be submitted to the Inquiry, in writing by email or by post, by no later than Friday, 8 September 2017.

Notes for Editors

Sir Martin Moore-Bick was [appointed by the Prime Minister](#) to chair the Grenfell Tower Inquiry on 29 June 2017.

Sir Martin will not be giving any media interviews. He will make an opening statement at the first preliminary hearing on 14 September, which will be held in the Connaught Rooms in Great Queen Street, London.

Core Participants

Sir Martin Moore-Bick may designate a person, organisation or entity as a core participant. The designation of core participants is governed by criteria set out in Rule 5 of the [Inquiry Rules 2006](#).

Sir Martin may designate a person as a core participant at any time during the course of the Inquiry, providing that person consents to be so designated.

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Under Rule 5 (2) of the [Inquiry Rules 2006](#) the Chairman will consider:

- whether the person played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the Inquiry relates,
- whether the person has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the Inquiry relates; or
- whether the person may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the Inquiry proceedings or in the report, or in any interim report.

The Protocol states that Sir Martin is willing to grant core participant status to:

- The survivors of the fire at Grenfell Tower;
- All individuals who were residents of Grenfell Tower at the time of the fire; and
- The families of those that died or those who were injured and as a result are unable to participate in the Inquiry.

Those designated as core participants may participate in the Inquiry in a number of ways:

- receiving in advance of hearings disclosure of evidence which Sir Martin considers relevant to that core participant;
- making an opening and closing statement at certain hearings;
- suggesting lines of questioning to be pursued by Counsel to the Inquiry;
- their recognised legal representative may apply to Sir Martin to ask questions of a witness.

Legal Representatives

The designation of a core participant's recognised legal representative is separate from the decision to designate a person as a core participant.

Where two or more core participants each seeks to be legally represented and Sir Martin Moore-Bick considers that:

- their interests in the outcome of the Inquiry are similar;
- the facts they are likely to rely on during the course of the Inquiry are similar; and
- it is fair and proper for them to be jointly represented;

Sir Martin may direct that those core participants shall be represented by a single recognised legal representative.

Where Sir Martin makes such a direction, core participants must agree the designation of a single legal representative. If they do not do so within a reasonable period, the Chairman will

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designate an appropriate lawyer who he considers has sufficient knowledge and experience to act in that capacity.

Legal Representation at Public Expense

[Section 40 of the Inquiries Act 2005](#) allows Sir Martin to make awards for the cost of legal representation and the attendance of witnesses subject to such conditions or qualifications determined by the Prime Minister and notified to Sir Martin. Under this section, Sir Martin has the power to award expenses and legal costs to those who give evidence, whether or not they are core participants.

A Costs protocol relating to applications for legal representatives at public expense will be published on the Inquiry's website.

Hearings

All hearings will be live-streamed and available to watch from the Inquiry's website. A transcript of all hearings and a copy of the live screening of each hearing will be posted on the Inquiry's website.

Preliminary Hearings will be held in order to address procedural and programming issues and to enable Sir Martin to consider submissions of a legal nature as necessary before the commencement of evidential hearings.

There will also be a number of hearings at which individuals and organisations will be able to give evidence about matters under investigation. It is too early to say how many such hearings will be required or when the first will take place.

ENDS

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