



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 25/23

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	11 June 2025
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report Update
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For information
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This paper provides a brief update on sector progress following publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report and associated government response.
RISK ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None for the purposes of this report.
RECOMMENDATIONS	Members are asked to review and note the content for information.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>FRA Paper 24-61 dated 10 December 2024</p> <p>Government response to GTI2 Report published Feb 2025</p> <p>NFCC Policy Industry White Paper – Remediation</p> <p>NFCC letter to Home Office regarding Fire Safety (Residential Evacuation Plans) (England) Regulations 2025 – In Draft – Observations and Comments</p> <p>Remediation Enforcement Guidance</p>

APPENDICES	None for the purposes of this report
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper provides a brief update on developments since the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (GTI) Phase 2 report and the Government response.

2 Building safety

- 2.1 The Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report was published on 4 September 2024 and contained 58 recommendations across a wide range of stakeholders, including fire and rescue services. Key elements were summarised within a paper presented to Members at their December 2024 meeting.
- 2.2 The Prime Minister announced on 13 February 2025 that responsibility for Fire and Rescue Services would move from the Home Office to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in order to facilitate effective implementation and oversight of the building safety agenda within a single government department.
- 2.3 The National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC) published an Industry White Paper on 24 February 2025 in response to the Government paper in December 2024 on Remediation Acceleration Plans which itself outlined the government strategic intent to speed up the remediation of high rise and medium rise residential buildings over 11m before a 2029 deadline. This paper highlights a number of pressures facing fire and rescue services and proposes 16 recommendations for Ministerial consideration to assist them in delivering their part of this task.
- 2.4 The Government published its response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report on 26 February 2025 outlining acceptance of the report findings and a commitment to delivering the necessary change in line with the recommendations. Forty-nine recommendations were accepted in full, and the remaining 9 (which were all directed at Government) accepted in principle, subject to further consultation to deliver the best outcomes for the public.
- 2.5 The Government response indicates that secondary legislation will be laid to deliver against the Phase 1 recommendation to assist with the safe evacuation of vulnerable residents in all high rise and some medium rise residential buildings.
- 2.6 NFCC have commented on the draft legislation to raise some further concerns on how this would work in practice and how the legislative framework of responsibility on the Responsible Person may shift towards an expectation of fire and rescue service intervention and increased Safe and Well capacity. We await further detail on the regulations to enable a better assessment of resource implications.
- 2.7 The Government response also indicates that they will bring forward a fire and rescue modernisation and reform programme. This is to be supported by fire safety recommendations.

2.8 Government proposals are for a phased approach to delivering the recommendations.

- **Phase 1 (2025 to 2026)** includes the delivery of existing reform, including the works associated with the Building Safety Act and the necessary legislation to ensure the continued momentum for remediation acceleration plans – fixing buildings faster. It also includes reviews of resilience arrangements for response, and consultation on higher risk building definitions and the College of Fire and Rescue.
- **Phase 2 (2026 to 2028)** focusses on developing proposals to deliver the recommendations, creation of the College of Fire and Rescue, continuous review of the building regulations and work to enhance the competence of key fire safety professionals.
- **Phase 3 (2028 onwards)** is set out to implement the reforms in full and embed the regulatory framework and deliver the necessary emergency response functions.

2.9 As a result of the Remediation Acceleration Plan (RAP) proposals published by the Deputy Prime Minister, work is currently underway to identify all buildings between 11-18m which may require remediation. It is hoped that a single dataset can be provided through support from the Cladding Safety Scheme to support fire and rescue services in the identification, triage and, where necessary, enforcement action to deal with unsafe cladding in this cohort of buildings. Whilst it is hoped that this work will be driven centrally and not be as impactful as the Building Risk Review process for 18m+ buildings, there may be a requirement for further assessment and information gathering in what could be a large number of buildings. NFCC have raised this as a concern, and we continue to provide feedback to inform their view. Whilst the formal requirement for a RAP is not yet in place for the Service, we anticipate this in due course and are taking steps to prepare.

2.10 Guidance has been published to assist regulators in understanding how best to deal with the enforcement of defects, recognising that the Building Safety Regulator (BSR), local Authority and fire and rescue services may have overlapping powers and jurisdiction in some buildings. A review of our current working arrangements with key partners is planned.

2.11 The future of funding for Protection activity remains unclear. Confirmation of the Protection Uplift Grant allocation for 2025/26 only confirms the first six months of the year and the cost recovery model for BSR function, whilst now working more smoothly, is not guaranteed to cover the costs of work undertaken within the region. New Burdens funding is due to cease in 2025/26 however there is a need for this to continue to cover the costs of those staff who are in development and not yet undertaking BSR cost recoverable work.

3 Summary and key points

- 3.1 Actions arising from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports remain amongst the highest priority for the Service. The future increase in scope or definition of “higher risk residential buildings” to include lower height threshold buildings, coupled with works associated with Remediation Acceleration Plans may impact on capacity to deliver other high-risk interventions which fall within our current Risk Based Inspection Plan. To mitigate this the Service’s risk management arrangements operate to keep pace with legislative change, recruitment and retention of competent staff to meet these recommendations.