

4 July 2017

Dear TRAs and TMOs,

Update on fire safety and urgent works at the Chalcots Estate

As you will all know we made the difficult, but necessary, decision to evacuate four tower blocks on the Chalcots Estate on Friday 23 June. This was an unprecedented move for Camden, or any council, and I would like to say thank you to those of you who supported residents, councillors and staff on the ground during the evacuation, in the hours and days that followed.

I wanted to give you all an update on where we are at Chalcots, and how we are addressing fire safety across all our estates with high-rise buildings. At Chalcots work is progressing well, with contractors on site round the clock. The next phase of work will improve and repair fire doors or replace doors that do not meet fire safety standards. This work is starting today, with council staff contacting residents to arrange access. Work will be carried out on floor by floor in each block, with the aim of moving residents back in to their homes as soon as possible, so we will be asking all Chalcots residents to work with us in getting this work completed.

In addition to cladding from other high-rise blocks, including Amphyll and Bacton, undergoing testing, and fire safety checks being carried out, at last night's Council meeting, the Leader Councillor Georgia Gould announced the introduction of a robust, borough wide fire safety programme that includes:

- Plans to appoint a new director responsible for resident safety
- Carrying out enhanced fire safety checks on every council-owned tower block in Camden and publish all future fire risk assessments
- The set up a borough-wide Camden Fire Safety Advisory Panel led by tenants and leaseholders
- Providing advice and training opportunities for tenants in every block in Camden on fire safety

This is great news, and you can find out more information on the [Camden website](#). The Panel in particular gives us all the opportunity to get involved in shaping how we approach fire safety in Camden.

The tragedy at Grenfell has changed everything, for local authorities, for councillors and for residents. We now need to work together, to continue to ensure the safety of our fellow residents across the borough and I believe what Georgia set out last night, can and will make a real difference. You can find all the latest news, and progress on the work at Chalcots on our [website](#), or you can follow [@camdentalking](#) on Twitter.

Thank you all again for your support, I will send a further update next week but in the meantime it would be helpful if you were to remind your members of the fire safety advice starting on page 52 in the Tenant's Guide accessible via [Camden's website](#).

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Pat Callaghan
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing