

Appendix A: Grenfell Tower LGA Media Coverage

Wednesday 14 June – Thursday 13 July

Total number of national coverage episodes: 68 (to 13 July)

LGA on Grenfell Tower fire

Wednesday 14, Thursday 15 and Friday 16 June

Chairman Lord Porter featured on **BBC Online (twice)** and in the **Mail** with the LGA's response to the Grenfell Tower fire. Lord Porter said the "whole local government family" is "shocked and saddened" by the tragedy and stressed that councils take the safety of residents "extremely seriously". He added: "The LGA is working closely with the Government and fire chiefs to coordinate national efforts and support councils." The LGA's published fire safety guidance was also referenced separately on **BBC Online** and **BBC Radio 4's PM programme**. Lord Porter's comments were also reported on **BBC Radio 5 Live** and **BBC** regional radio news bulletins. An updated statement was issued and also broadcast on the **BBC News channel** on Friday.

- BBC News channel, BBC Radio 4 PM, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC regional radio news
- Mail p2
- BBC Online
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-40300369>
- BBC Online
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40279944>
- BBC Online (Wednesday)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-40273715>
- LGA media release
<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/updated-lga-statement-grenfell-tower-fire>
- LGA media release
<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/local-government-association-grenfell-tower-fire>

Councils order urgent housing review

Saturday 17, Sunday 18 and Monday 19 June

Chairman Lord Porter featured in the **Times** and on **BBC Online**, **Telegraph Online** and **Metro Online** with the LGA's statement on council efforts to undertake urgent reviews of high rise blocks following the Grenfell Tower fire, which was also reported on **LBC**, **BBC Radio 4** and **BBC Radio 5 Live**. The LGA's ongoing support to councils was also reported separately on **BBC Online (Saturday)**, **BBC Online (Sunday)** and on **Guardian Online**. Councils across England are carrying out urgent reviews of high-rise buildings in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire. The LGA said authorities were reviewing fire risk assessments and the construction of buildings. Staff are also working closely with tenants to review and offer fire safety advice. Lord Porter said: "Following the horrific fire at Grenfell Tower, councils with tower blocks in their local area have been working with their local fire service, and undertaking urgent reviews of their high-rise buildings. Fire risk assessments

and the construction of buildings are being reviewed and double checks are being made to ensure remedial work recommended under previous assessments have been carried out."

- LBC, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5 Live
- Times p8
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/glenfell-tower-homes-schools-and-hospitals-all-fitted-with-deadly-cladding-h2tsrj9fh>
- BBC Online
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-40305574>
- Telegraph Online
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/16/grenfell-tower-refurbishment-used-cheaper-cladding-tenants-accused/>
- Metro Online
http://metro.co.uk/2017/06/16/grenfell-tower-protesters-turn-on-kensington-council-staff-trying-to-leave-offices-6714413/#provider_moreover
- BBC Online (Saturday)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40310959>
- BBC Online (Sunday)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40316812>
- Guardian Online
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/19/government-will-cover-costs-of-fire-safety-work-councils-told-grenfell-tower>
- LGA media release
<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/updated-lga-statement-grenfell-tower-fire>

Government will cover costs of fire safety work

Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 June

The **Guardian** and **Sun Online** reported Chairman Lord Porter's letter to council leaders about assurances he has received from government that funding will be made available to those councils that need to conduct work on tower blocks, following the Grenfell Tower fire. In the letter, Lord Porter added that councils have already been contacting worried residents to assure them action was being taken. The LGA was also referenced in separate reports about the fire on **BBC Radio 4 World at One** and on **BBC Radio 5 Live**.

- BBC Radio 4's World at One, BBC Radio 5 Live
- Guardian p6
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/19/government-will-cover-costs-of-fire-safety-work-councils-told-grenfell-tower>
- Sun Online
<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3835124/government-will-cover-costs-of-fire-safety-upgrades-following-grenfell-blaze-councils-told/>

Fire safety: LGA statement

Sunday 25 and Monday 26 June

Housing Minister Alok Sharma referenced the LGA's media release on **BBC Radio 4's Today programme**, which advised councils still waiting for cladding test results to prepare contingency plans so they can take any measures needed. The LGA said: "Where cladding fails the test, this will not necessarily mean moving residents from tower blocks." The LGA's statement was also mentioned on **BBC News, BBC World News, Sky News, BBC Radio 4's The World This Weekend, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC** and in the **Mail, BBC Online, Guardian Online** and **Telegraph Online**.

- BBC Radio 4 Today, BBC News, BBC World News, Sky News, BBC Radio 4's The World this Weekend, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC
- Mail p6
- BBC Online
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40397790>
- Sky News Online
<http://news.sky.com/story/tower-block-cladding-27-buildings-fail-fire-safety-tests-10925792>
- Guardian Online
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/25/revealed-60-towers-across-england-found-to-have-unsafe-cladding>
- Telegraph Online
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/26/councils-blame-dragging-heels-cladding-testing-wake-grenfell/>
- LGA media release
<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/fire-safety-local-government-association-statement>

Councils working quickly to test cladding

Tuesday 27 June

The LGA's statement about how councils were working swiftly to check cladding on tower blocks and submit samples for testing was reported on **Good Morning Britain, Telegraph Online** and **Guardian Online**. An LGA spokesperson said: "Councils have worked quickly to check cladding on tower blocks where they are the landlord and send samples for independent testing. The LGA has contacted all of the local authorities which government officials were still expecting samples from. Of the overwhelming majority we have been able to speak to so far today, they have either already sent a sample for testing or informed government officials that they do not own any high-rise buildings with ACM cladding in their area."

- ITV's Good Morning Britain
- Telegraph Online

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/26/government-not-testing-tower-blocks-deadly-insulation-grenfell/>

- Guardian Online
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/26/tower-block-cladding-tests-after-grenfell-fire-lack-transparency-say-experts>
- LGA media release
<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/councils-worked-quickly-send-cladding-samples-testing-lga>

Tower Block Testing

Friday 30 June

LGA Chairman Lord Porter was interviewed live on **BBC Radio 4's Today Programme**, **Sky News**, **BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show** and **LBC** and also featured on the **BBC News channel**, **ITV News**, **Channel 4 News**, **Channel 5 News**, **BBC Radio 5 Live**, **Talk Radio**, **TalkSport** and **BBC local radio**, about the value of the Government's cladding testing programme. He said government experts should be testing the whole of the panels along with insulation, rather than just the panels' core. Lord Porter said: "The Government needs to listen to a wider set of opinions. The experts may be right but we can't have confidence in that. We need to test the whole panel. The panel should be taken off and tested for its integrity. The panels are coming in and they have a certificate to say they are suitable." Lord Porter's comments were also reported on **BBC Online (twice)**, **Sky News Online**, **Mail Online (twice)**, **Times Online**, **Telegraph Online** and **Independent Online (twice)**

- Lord Porter on BBC Radio 4's Today, Sky News (twice), BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show, BBC News channel, LBC, ITV, Channel 4 News, Channel 5 News, BBC Radio 5 Live, Talk Radio, TalkSport, BBC local radio
- BBC Online
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40453054>
- BBC Online
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-40455473/grenfell-tower-panels-not-tested-properly>
- Sky News Online
<http://news.sky.com/story/downing-street-rebukes-council-over-halted-grenfell-meeting-10932243>
- Mail Online
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4653550/Council-chief-warns-wrong-tests-carried-cladding.html>
- Mail Online
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-4653362/Fiasco-fury-council-scrap-Grenfell-Tower-meeting.html>
- Times Online
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/772fd534-5d0e-11e7-ad31-8e588690cd15>
- Telegraph Online
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/30/grenfell-tower-fireproof-cladding-downgraded-save-293k/>

- Guardian Online
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/30/tower-block-cladding-could-be-safe-despite-failed-tests-experts-say>
- Independent Online
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/grenfell-tower-fire-latest-news-tory-local-government-tower-block-safety-checks-cladding-tests-a7815921.html>
- Independent Online
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/grenfell-tower-latest-news-149-high-rise-building-fire-safety-tests-fail-local-authorities-uk-a7816311.html>
- LBC Online
<http://www.lbc.co.uk/news/uk/grenfell-tower-management-boss-steps-aside-to/>
- i paper online
<https://inews.co.uk/essentials/news/uk/potentially-hazardous-insulation-left-high-rise-buildings-government-fails-provide-guidance-councils/>

Further tests for cladding

Friday 7 July

Chairman Lord Porter featured on **BBC Online**, **Mail Online** and **Independent Online** with the LGA's comments on the further fire safety tests on cladding and insulation, as recommended by the Expert Advisory Panel. Cladding samples which failed safety tests following the Grenfell Tower fire will be subjected to further "large scale testing". This came after 190 samples out of 191 failed initial combustibility tests. Previously the tests had only focused on the plastic core between the panels. Lord Porter said the changes were "much-needed", adding: "We have been clear all along that entire cladding panels and the insulation behind them need to be tested as a system, rather than just the core of the panels on their own."

- BBC Online
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40520596>
- Mail Online
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4672360/It-ll-generation-heal-wounds-Grenfell.html>
- Independent Online
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/grenfell-tower-fire-cladding-testing-extended-criticism-100-per-cent-failure-rates-blocks-a7829671.html>
- LGA media release
<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-comments-further-fire-safety-tests-cladding-and-insulation>

Grenfell: The myths and the facts

Saturday 8 July

The LGA's fire safety guidance was referenced in a **Mail** article looking at the key questions being asked by the public and politicians about the Grenfell Tower fire.

- Mail p24

'Unsafe' cladding remains in most affected areas

Thursday 13 July

Most of the areas with tower blocks clad in panels that have failed fire combustibility tests have not yet started to remove the material, the **BBC** claimed. Councils, housing associations and private landlords say there is some confusion about what to do while they wait for the results of more comprehensive government safety tests. The LGA said councils would do whatever was needed to ensure residents were safe in their homes. It said: "We have been clear all along that entire cladding panels and the insulation behind them need to be fire tested together as a system, rather than just the core of the panels on their own, and are pleased these much-needed changes to the testing process are now going to happen."

- BBC Online
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40568767>

Answers to the Grenfell Tower 'wall of questions'

Thursday 13 July

For the past month since the Grenfell Tower fire, residents have been posting questions about the disaster on a wall under the Westway flyover. In an attempt to answer some of those questions, a **Guardian Online** feature investigates the "stay-put" policy. The article says: "A 2012 report for the LGA pointed out that in 2009/10 of more than 8,000 fires in high-rise blocks, only 22 required more than five people to be evacuated." The LGA said the stay-put advice was not intended to deter people from leaving if they felt threatened. The BBC said fire service advice to "stay put" inside Grenfell Tower during the fire lasted nearly two hours.

- Guardian Online
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jul/12/answers-to-the-grenfell-tower-wall-of-questions>

By media release:

- Local Government Association on Grenfell Tower fire (15 June)
(8 episodes of coverage)
- Updated LGA statement on Grenfell Tower fire (16 June)
(12 episodes of coverage)
- Fire safety: Local Government Association statement (24 June)
(12 episodes of coverage)
- Councils worked quickly to send cladding samples for testing – LGA (26 June)
(3 episodes of coverage)
- LGA comments on further fire safety tests on cladding and insulation (6 July)
(4 episodes of coverage)