



Implementation of Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations

Progress Update – Summer 2021





Contents

»» Introduction	3
»» Methodology.....	5
»» Recommendations Overview.....	7
»» Progress Summary.....	12
Knowledge and understanding of materials used in high-rise buildings.....	12
Visits under section 7(2) (d) of Fire and Rescue Services Act.....	12
Building Plans	12
Communication between control room and incident commander	13
Emergency Calls.....	13
Emergency calls – transition from stay put to get out.....	14
Emergency Call – Other Control Rooms.....	14
Command & Control – breathing apparatus crews	14
Command & Control – Communication.....	15
Equipment.....	16
Evacuation	16
Evacuation – Smokehoods	16
Cooperation between emergency services – Joint Doctrine	17
Cooperation between emergency services – information sharing.....	17
»» Non–Fire Service Recommendations	19
»» High Rise Residential Buildings Project.....	23
»» Next Steps.....	24
Appendix 1: The RBFRS’ performance dashboard in regards to the HRRB.....	25



Introduction

On 14 June 2017, a fire took hold in Grenfell Tower, a high-rise residential building within London. This sadly resulted in 72 people losing their lives.

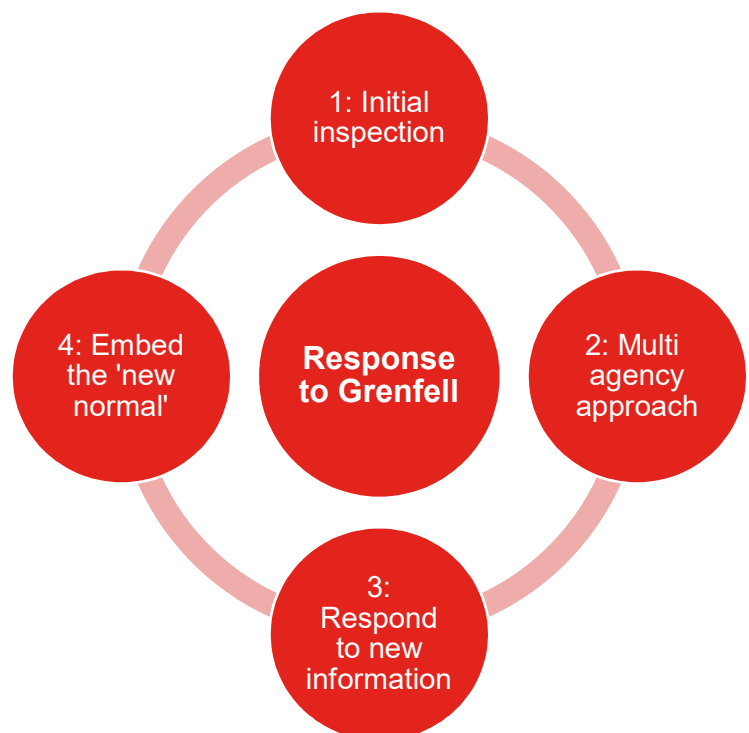
On 30 October 2019, The Grenfell Tower Inquiry, chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, published its Phase 1 report. This highlighted a number of serious issues and provided 46 recommendations for fire and rescue services and other stakeholder groups including building owners and Government.

Royal Berkshire Fire Authority has provided significant investment to ensure the Service is able to respond appropriately to the recommendations. Ultimately, we can no longer fully rely on the buildings we attend to behave in the way they were designed to and how we might have expected them to in the past.

We must ensure that we have the correct arrangements in place to keep residents and staff safe, not just in incidents in high rise residential buildings, but all incidents across the complex built environment. Furthermore, where we can support others in acting on the recommendations and making improvements for the benefit of resident safety, we will.

This report seeks to provide an update on the progress made against the recommendations through the Service's Built Environment Programme (BEP) including an update on our High Rise Residential Building (HRRB) project. Our intention is to provide further progress reports every six months until the completion of the programme.

Following the Grenfell Tower incident Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service introduced a four phase plan to manage immediate and anticipated implications as shown in figure 1.





Implementation of Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations

The BEP was established as part of Phase 3 with the following key objectives:

- 1- To provide assurance that the 46 recommendations within the Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1 report are assessed and that any areas of concern identified are appropriately addressed to help mitigate risk
- 2- To provide assurance that targeted 'high risk' premises have been audited and are compliant with MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) and where areas of concerns have been identified, a joined up approach (Protection, Prevention and Response) will be taken to help mitigate the risks
- 3- To ensure a coordinated response to further external impacts including: legislative changes and further Grenfell Inquiry recommendations
- 4- To identify and make recommendations for further areas of improvement identified within the Programme

Our aim is to complete objectives 1 and 2 by December 2022. Some areas requiring significant sector wide change may be beyond the direct control of RBFRS, and we will ensure we share our learning and influence wider change where we can.



Methodology

In early 2020 a gap analysis was carried out, assessing the inquiry recommendations against the organisational position at the time. This involved engaging and triangulating evidence across a number of stakeholders including; frontline crews, fire control, Fire Safety Inspecting Officers and Prevention staff as well as a complex network of external sources including National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) working groups, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and an array of reviews such as the Hackitt Report, Raising the Bar and the State of Fire & Rescue report. This allowed us to properly understand the challenges we face locally.

The approach we have taken to systematically identify, prioritise, deliver and monitor actions to date includes;

- Completion of gap analysis between the 46 recommendations and current evidenced organisational position
- Establish a structured programme of work, supporting existing governance structures and change approaches
- Translating identified gaps/recommendations into risks, using the recognisable RBFRS organisational risk management approach. This has allowed us to address both the specific recommendations and underlying issues where appropriate
- Identify and commission appropriate treatments/tasks with responsible owners and resource Peer reviews within the sector and external associates
- Established assurance framework to verify results of actions taken so far, whilst linking into the organisational assurance framework to support longer term continuous learning
- Identify, engage and directly support a wide network of groups and individuals to ensure we learn from and provide learning to the wider sector. (see figure 3)
- Responding to new information from internal and external sources and adapting our plans as required
- Ensure visibility, scrutiny and performance management of progress through a number of internal and external reporting arrangements.

To help us manage the scale of the change we have split the programme into four distinct work streams (see figure 2).

Within the structure we have a central programme coordination team which is led by Programme Manager, Noosha Churchill and will span all work streams. This acts as an escalation and monitoring forum and is responsible for coordinating common features, including;

- Training
- Policy
- Assurance
- Communications
- New Information Management



Implementation of Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations

The programme has senior leadership sponsorship from Mark Arkwell, Director for Collaboration, Change and Finance.

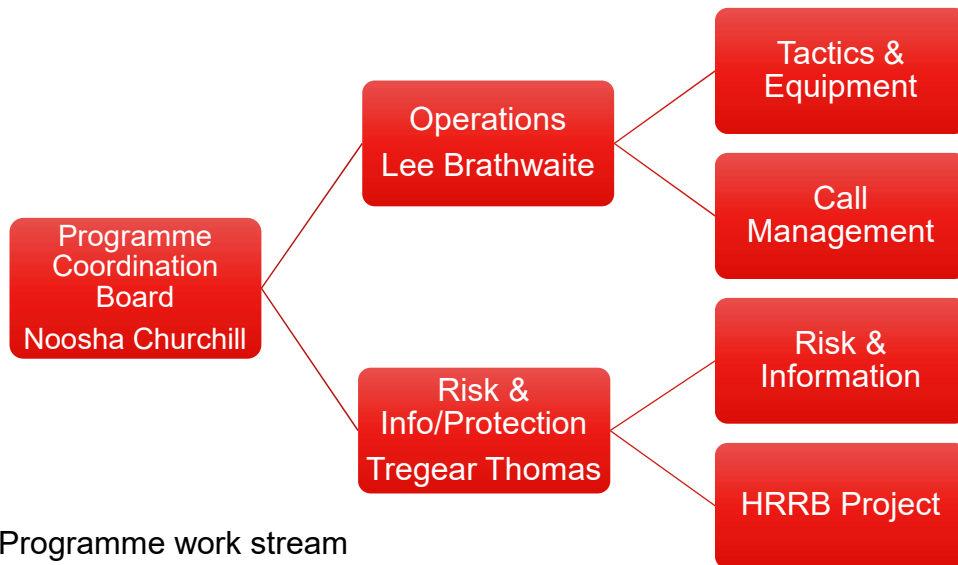


Figure 2: Programme work stream

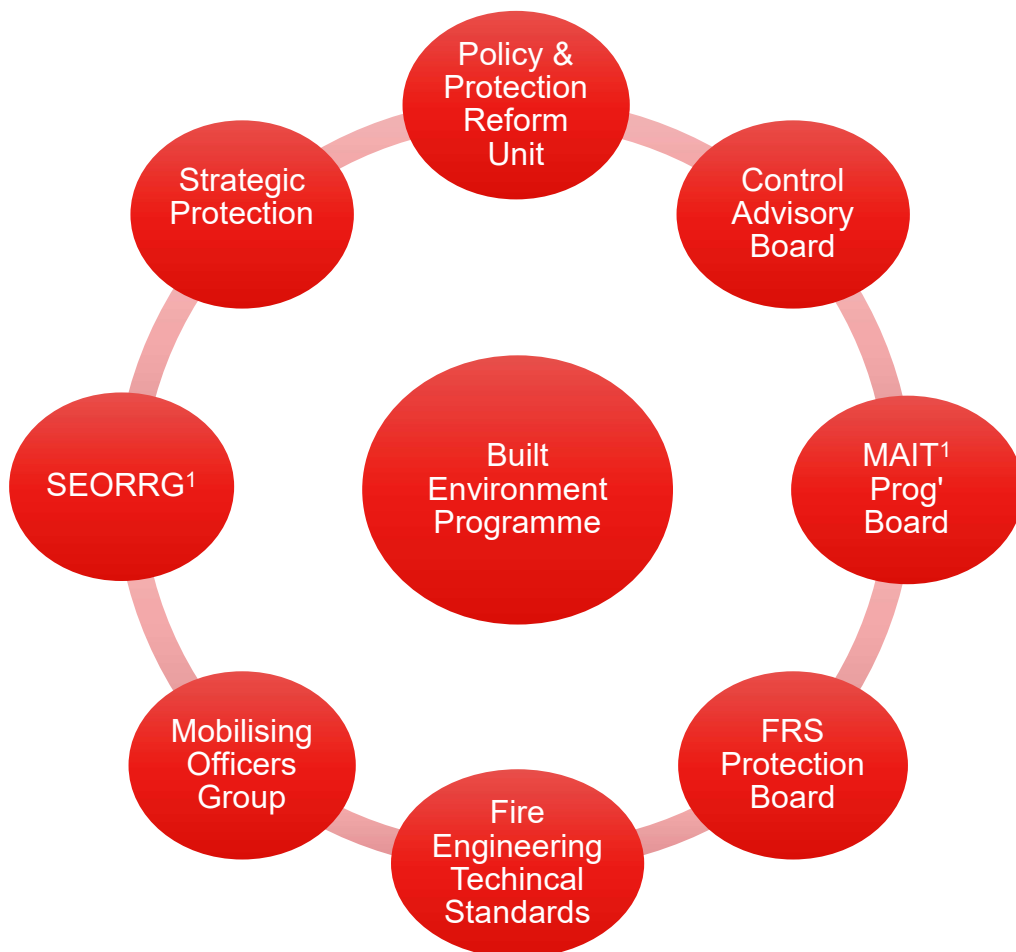




Figure 3: Current network of external support groups

1: MAIT: Multi Agency Incident Transfer / SEORRG: South East Operational Response & Resilience Group

Recommendations Overview

From the 46 phase 1 inquiry recommendations there are 29 aimed at Fire and Rescue Services. 14 of these are solely aimed at London Fire Brigade with the remaining 15 directed to fire and rescue services more broadly.

A further 11 recommend a change to the law to put new requirements on building owners and managers. This process is underway with the introduction of clarifications to the Fire Safety Act and introduction of the Building Safety Bill. A further 3 recommendations are aimed at building owners and managers, but do not require legal changes.

RBFRS believes that it is appropriate to not only consider the specific Fire and Rescue Service recommendations, but seek to support other stakeholders in improving safety across the built environment for the benefit of Berkshire residents. Therefore we have included all 46 recommendations within our risk assessment methodology and have risk treatments and tasks in place beyond those directly aimed at fire and rescue services.

Table 1 provides an overview of the recommendations directed towards fire and rescue services, including those for London Fire Brigade specifically. Other non-fire service specific recommendations are addressed in Table two from page 18.

Table 1: The Service’s progress with implementing recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report

Progress Status Key	
R	Has significant issues that are affecting deliverable/timescale
A	Has issues that may affect deliverable/timescales
G	On track, no issues or risks identified
C	Task completed
NS	Task not started

(Numbers are from the original report so not always consecutive because not all apply to fire and rescue services)



Implementation of Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations

Table 1

No	Grenfell Tower Inquiry's phase 1 recommendation	RBFRS Work Stream	RAG Status	Completion Date
2	All fire and rescue services ensure that their personnel at all levels understand the risk of fire taking hold in the external walls of high-rise buildings and know how to recognise it when it occurs.	Tactics & Equipment		August 21 – Training available December 2021 – Crews to have completed
3	The LFB review, and revise as appropriate, Appendix 1 to PN6336 ² to ensure that it fully reflects the principles in GRA 3.2. ³	Risk & Information		January 21
4	The LFB ensure that all officers of the rank of Crew Manager and above are trained in carrying out the requirements of PN633 ² relating to the inspection of high-rise buildings.	Risk & Information		August 21 – Training available December 2021 – Crews to have completed
7	All fire and rescue services be equipped to receive and store electronic plans and to make them available to incident commanders and control room managers.	Risk & Information		August 2021
10	The LFB review its policies on communications between the control room and the incident commander.	Tactics & Equipment		December 2022
11	All officers who may be expected to act as incident commanders (i.e. all those above the rank of Crew Manager) receive training directed to the specific requirements of communication with the control room.	Tactics & Equipment		December 2022
12	All CROs ⁴ of Assistant Operations Manager rank and above receive training directed to the specific requirements of communication with the incident commander.	Tactics & Equipment		December 2022
13	A dedicated communication link be provided between the senior officer in the control room and the incident commander.	Tactics & Equipment		March 2022
14	The LFB's policies be amended to draw a clearer distinction between callers seeking advice and callers who believe they are trapped and need rescuing.	Call Mngt		August 2021



Implementation of Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations

No	Grenfell Tower Inquiry's phase 1 recommendation	RBFRS Work Stream	RAG Status	Completion Date
15	The LFB provide regular and more effective refresher training to CROs ⁴ at all levels, including supervisors.	Call Mngt		December 2021
16	All fire and rescue services develop policies for handling a large number of FSG calls simultaneously.	Call Mngt		January 2022
17	Electronic systems be developed to record FSG information in the control room and display it simultaneously at the bridgehead and in any command units.	Tactics & Equipment		December 2022
18	Policies to be developed to manage the transition from 'Stay Put' to 'Get Out'	Call Mngt		December 2020
19	Control room staff receive training directed specifically to handling such a change of advice and conveying it effectively to callers.	Call Mngt		December 2022
20	Steps be taken to investigate methods by which assisting control rooms can obtain access to the information available to the host control room.	Call Mngt		March 2020
22	The LFB develop policies and training to ensure better control of deployments and the use of resources.	Tactics & Equipment		December 2021
23	The LFB develop policies and training to ensure that better information is obtained from crews returning from deployments and that the information is recorded in a form that enables it to be made available immediately to the incident commander (and thereafter to the command units and the control room).	Tactics & Equipment		December 2021
24	The LFB develop a communication system to enable direct communication between the control room and the incident commander and improve the means of communication between the incident commander and the bridgehead.	Tactics & Equipment		March 2022



Implementation of Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations

No	Grenfell Tower Inquiry's phase 1 recommendation	RBFRS Work Stream	RAG Status	Completion Date
25	The LFB investigate the use of modern communication techniques to provide a direct line of communication between the control room and the bridgehead, allowing information to be transmitted directly between the control room and the bridgehead and providing an integrated system of recording FSG information and the results of deployments.	Tactics & Equipment		March 2022
26	The LFB urgently take steps to obtain equipment that enables firefighters wearing helmets and breathing apparatus to communicate with the bridgehead effectively, including when operating in high-rise buildings.	Tactics & Equipment		November 2022
27	Urgent steps be taken to ensure that the command support system is fully operative on all command units and that crews are trained in its use.	Tactics & Equipment		December 2022
29	Fire and rescue services develop policies for partial and total evacuation of high-rise residential buildings and training to support them.	Tactics & Equip		December 2021
34	All fire and rescue services be equipped with smoke hoods to assist in the evacuation of occupants through smoke-filled exit routes.	Tactics & Equipment		March 2021
40	That each emergency services must communicate the declaration of a Major Incident to all other Category 1 Responders as soon as possible.	Call Mngt		JESIP review September 2021
41	That on the declaration of a Major Incident clear lines of communication must be established as soon as possible between the control rooms of the individual emergency services.	Call Mngt		JESIP review September 2021
42	That a single point of contact should be designated within each control room to facilitate such communication.	Call Mngt		JESIP review September 2021



Implementation of Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations

No	Grenfell Tower Inquiry's phase 1 recommendation	RBFRS Work Stream	RAG Status	Completion Date
43	That a "METHANE" ⁵ message should be sent as soon as possible by the emergency service declaring a Major Incident.	Call Mngt	Yellow	JESIP review Sept 2021
44	Steps be taken to investigate the compatibility of the LFB systems with those of the MPS and the LAS with a view to enabling all three emergency services' systems to read each other's messages.	Call Mngt	Red	TBC
46	The LFB, the MPS, the LAS and the London local authorities all investigate ways of improving the collection of information about survivors and making it available more rapidly to those wishing to make contact with them.	Tactics & Equipment	Green	December 2022

2: Policy number 633 (PN633) is the brigade's policy on high-rise firefighting.

3: Generic risk assessments 3.2 (GRA 3.2) is national operational guidance on high-rise firefighting.

4: Control room officers (CROs) work in fire and rescue services' control rooms.

5: 'METHANE' message is the recognised common model for passing incident information between the emergency services and their control rooms



Progress Summary

Further detail of the Service's progress against each of the 29 recommendations aimed specifically at fire and rescue services can be found below.

Knowledge and understanding of materials used in high-rise buildings

- 2. that all fire and rescue services ensure that their personnel at all levels understand the risk of fire taking hold in the external walls of high-rise buildings and know how to recognise it when it occurs.*

Initial guidance was delivered during 2019/2020 to operational crews.

Fires in Tall Buildings Operational Information Note was published in December 2020 which includes a section on 'buildings with external cladding'.

An online training package has been developed and quality assured by an external associate. The package includes; Legislation, Cladding Systems, Applications & Types, Mechanisms of Fire Spread and Fire Performance Testing. This will be rolled out by end of August 2021 and we expect all crews to have completed this, including the associated knowledge test, by the end of December 2021.

Visits under section 7(2) (d) of Fire and Rescue Services Act

- 3. that the LFB review, and revise as appropriate, Appendix 1 to PN633 to ensure that it fully reflects the principles in GRA 3.2⁶;*
- 4. that the LFB ensure that all officers of the rank of Crew Manager and above are trained in carrying out the requirements of PN633 relating to the inspection of high-rise buildings.*

7(2)(d) visits are also known as familiarisation visits which enable firefighters to learn about buildings within their local areas and prepare for incidents should they occur.

Recommendation 3 has been implemented – The Service has completed a review of its current policy and a new Operational Risk Information policy has been developed and aligns with National Operational Guidance (NOG).

Recommendation 4 – Initial guidance was delivered in July 2020. An online training package is in development, this will be available at the end of August 2021. We will expect all crews to have completed this by the end of December 2021

6: The Government has now withdrawn Generic Risk Assessment 3.2 as its content has been incorporated in National Operational Guidance. GRA 3.2 is [available as legacy guidance](#).

Building Plans



- 7. that all fire and rescue services be equipped to receive and store electronic plans and to make them available to incident commanders and control room managers.*

The service is able to receive and store electronic plans if required. We are currently reviewing ways that we make these available to incident commanders and control room managers.

Communication between control room and incident commander

- 10. that the LFB review its policies on communications between the control room and the incident commander;*
- 11. that all officers who may be expected to act as incident commanders (i.e. all those above the rank of Crew Manager) receive training directed to the specific requirements of communication with the control room;*
- 12. that all CROs of Assistant Operations Manager rank and above receive training directed to the specific requirements of communication with the incident commander*
- 13. that a dedicated communication link be provided between the senior officer in the control room and the incident commander.*

These recommendations are about improving the communication between the control room and the Incident Commander. Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) is a joint control room funded by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service. The Incident Commander is the officer in charge at the incident ground.

In regards to recommendations 10, 11 and 12, the Service has reviewed current policies and training around communication. We have also carried out an assurance exercise which included the communication between TVFCS and the Incident Commander/Ground.

We already have a dedicated radio operative but not a senior officer within TVFCS who will liaise with the incident ground, this is usually the driver of the appliance or command unit, if in attendance.

An incident command/command support project has been implemented within the Service to look at incident command in its entirety. The BEP has a recognised dependency with this project and will support its delivery.

Emergency Calls

- 14. that the LFB's policies be amended to draw a clearer distinction between callers seeking advice and callers who believe they are trapped and need rescuing;*
- 15. that the LFB provide regular and more effective refresher training to CROs at all levels, including supervisors;*
- 16. that all fire and rescue services develop policies for handling a large number of Fire Survival Guidance calls simultaneously;*
- 17. that electronic systems be developed to record FSG information in the control room and display it simultaneously at the bridgehead and in any command units;*



A Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) policy has been developed in line with Control National Operational Guidance and is currently going through consultation, our intention is to publish this at the end of July 2021. We will then look to review and amend all of our current training to reflect changes which should address recommendation 15.

We are currently awaiting National Operation Guidance – ‘multiple persons at risk’ to be published which is expected to be published in autumn 2021 to implement recommendation 16.

To assist with these recommendations we now have ‘National Talk Group 20’, a dedicated radio channel, which allows us to share incident information, including evacuation strategies, with other Fire and Rescue Services should they receive a call on our behalf. Our assisting control rooms are also in the process of upgrading to Vision 4 software which will enable them to view our system during an incident, if required.

To enable the implementation of recommendation 17 a technological solution is required. We are currently investigating options available to us, including Microsoft Teams, to allow us to share FSG information between TVFCS, the bridgehead and the command unit.

Emergency calls – transition from stay put to get out.

- 18. that policies be developed for managing a transition from “stay put” to “get out”;*
- 19. that control room staff receive training directed specifically to handling such a change of advice and conveying it effectively to callers.*

The Service published the Evacuation and Rescue of Persons Operational Incident Note in December 2020. This sets out the procedure for a transition from ‘stay put’ to a ‘get out’ evacuation strategy. This completes recommendation 18.

An online training package ‘Evacuation Management in Complex Buildings’ has been rolled out as part of our Control Development and Assessment Pathway (DAP). The Service is currently conducting a gap analysis to ensure this and other training meets the needs of recommendation 19.

The Service already has a translation service available which enables them to communicate with callers should English not be their first language.

Emergency Call – Other Control Rooms

- 20. that steps be taken to investigate methods by which assisting control rooms can obtain access to the information available to the host control room*

This has been implemented by the introduction of National Talk group 20. This enables Services to share risk critical information quickly during an incident. Within Thames Valley, all control room operatives have now received training and national testing of this takes place every week. A National exercise is planned for summer 2021.

Command & Control – breathing apparatus crews



22. *that the LFB develop policies and training to ensure better control of deployments and the use of resources;*
23. *that the LFB develop policies and training to ensure that better information is obtained from crews returning from deployments and that the information is recorded in a form that enables it to be made available immediately to the incident commander (and thereafter to the command units and the control room).*

The 'Fire in Tall Buildings' Operational Information Note was published in December 2020, this is aligned to National Operational Guidance.

The Service will introduce Fire Survival Boards/Deployment boards in summer 2021 alongside a new operational Evacuation Coordinator role.

Further work is being carried out to look at training requirements around deployment and collection of information which is due to be completed by the end of 2021.

Command & Control – Communication

24. *that the LFB develop a communication system to enable direct communication between the control room and the incident commander and improve the means of communication between the incident commander and the bridgehead*
25. *that the LFB investigate the use of modern communication techniques to provide a direct line of communication between the control room and the bridgehead, allowing information to be transmitted directly between the control room and the bridgehead and providing an integrated system of recording FSG information and the results of deployments.*

Recommendations 24 and 25 are an overlap with recommendation 13, which recommends a dedicated communications link between the control room and incident commander, and recommendation 17, which requires the service to display information simultaneously at control and in the command units.

The Service has completed an assurance exercise which tested the communication between TVFCS and the Incident Commander/Ground. A number of recommendations have arisen from this exercise which are being reviewed by the Programme.

We have a dedicated radio operative within TVFCS who will liaise with the incident ground, usually the driver of the appliance or command unit, if in attendance.

We are currently investigating options for a technological solution, including Microsoft Teams, to allow us to share FSG information between control, the bridgehead and the command unit.

An incident command/command support project has been implemented within the Service to look at incident command in its entirety. The BEP has a recognised dependency with this project and will support its delivery.



Equipment

- 26. that the LFB urgently take steps to obtain equipment that enables firefighters wearing helmets and breathing apparatus to communicate with the bridgehead effectively, including when operating in high-rise buildings*
- 27. that urgent steps be taken to ensure that the command support system is fully operative on all command units and that crews are trained in its use.*

Our current Breathing Apparatus (BA) equipment is designed to connect to our fire ground radios and allow the BA wearer to communicate with other fire ground radios. This is via a Draeger system that connects directly to our radios. We are scheduled to start the procurement of replacement radios alongside Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire in Autumn 2021, but these will not be available until November 2022. Radio compatibility has featured in recent BA replacement procurement exercises.

We are conducting radio tests within our High Rise Residential Buildings to identify any issues which will enable us to look at the use of repeaters and boosters during an incident, if required.

An online training package has been developed and is currently being quality assured ahead of launch. This will be available to our crews by the end of the summer and all crews will be expected to have completed this by December 2021.

We plan to carry out an assurance exercise later this year to test the current capability of the command unit and our crews. This information will be fed into the Service's Incident Command/Command Support project.

Evacuation

- 29. that fire and rescue services develop policies for partial and total evacuation of high-rise residential buildings and training to support them;*

The Service published an 'Evacuation and Rescue of People' Operational Information Note in December 2020 which covers evacuation strategies, FSG calls and external cladding.

An online training package 'Evacuation from Complex Buildings' was published in September 2020. To date, 86% have completed this and we are working to ensure the remainder have this done by September 2021.

Further work is being carried out in this area and any additional training identified will be complete by December 2021.

There is currently a national steering group, which is being led by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MCHLG), looking at academic research on evacuation and will follow up with testing which RBFRS are linking into.

Evacuation – Smokehoods



34. that all fire and rescue services be equipped with smoke hoods to assist in the evacuation of occupants through smoke-filled exit routes.

Smokehoods, also known as Escape hoods, have been introduced to the Service and are now available on all full-time fire engines and the Aerial Ladder Platform, should they be required.

Training has also been rolled out across the county. The acquisition training for this piece of equipment is included in the initial BA course to ensure ongoing training. The rollout of the equipment has been assured and retention of knowledge tested. This now sits within business as usual.

Cooperation between emergency services – Joint Doctrine

- 40. that each emergency service must communicate the declaration of a Major Incident to all other Category 1 Responders as soon as possible;*
- 41. that on the declaration of a Major Incident clear lines of communication must be established as soon as possible between the control rooms of the individual emergency services;*
- 42. that a single point of contact should be designated within each control room to facilitate such communication;*
- 43. that a “METHANE” message should be sent as soon as possible by the emergency service declaring a Major Incident.*

These recommendations are aimed at all emergency services and are about the content of the Joint Doctrine. This is an interoperability framework setting out the standard approach to multi agency working. It is developed by the national Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP), a partnership of emergency services.

There is a review of the Joint Doctrine, which will include consideration of these recommendations, which is looking at a potential completion date of September 2021.

RBFRS/TVFCS do currently use METHANE during major incidents. TVFCS do also have access to an interagency group which allows them to liaise with South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) and Thames Valley Police (TVP) via desktop radios.

We also plan to arrange a multi-agency exercise during the Programme to test and assure this process.

Cooperation between emergency services – information sharing

- 44. that steps be taken to investigate the compatibility of the LFB systems with those of the MPS and the LAS with a view to enabling all three emergency services’ systems to read each other’s messages*



46. that the LFB, the MPS, the LAS and the London local authorities all investigate ways of improving the collection of information about survivors and making it available more rapidly to those wishing to make contact with them.

These recommendations will be considered as part of the JESIP review as per recommendations 40-43.

We are reliant on the Multi Agency Information Transfer (MAIT) facility being introduced to complete recommendation 44 but this will be something that requires other services and partners to also achieve in order to unlock the benefits of the functionality. This is an area being looked at both locally and nationally and the Service has a representative at the national working group considering this.

Royal Berkshire have made initial contact with the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum Humanitarian Assistance Programme in regards to the collection of survivor information. This work with partners will continue to progress via the Programme.



Non–Fire Service Recommendations

The Service’s response to the remaining 17 recommendations, which include those aimed at Government and/or building managers & owners, will require legislation changes.

(Numbers are from the original report so are not always consecutive because not all apply to fire and rescue services)

No	Grenfell Tower Inquiry’s phase 1 recommendation	RBFRS Progress to date	Comments
1	that the owner and manager of every high-rise residential building be required by law to provide their local fire and rescue service with information about the design of its external walls together with details of the materials of which they are constructed and to inform the fire and rescue service of any material changes made to them;	<p>HRRB Project set up to inspect all 198 HRRBs within Berkshire.</p> <p>All buildings have been issued with ‘Article 27’ letters requesting information on external walls.</p> <p>All information received on external wall information is included within our site specific risk information which is available to crews during an incident.</p>	<p>A new legal requirement on building owners and managers to provide information on their external walls is required.</p> <p>Awaiting legislation changes for this to happen. E.g. Building Safety Act.</p>
5	that the owner and manager of every high-rise residential building be required by law: to provide their local fire and rescue services with up-to-date plans in both paper and electronic form of every floor of the building identifying the location of key fire safety systems;	<p>Electronic premise information plates (EPIP) have been developed for our buildings within interim measures and we are introducing these across other high risk buildings.</p> <p>An EPIP is a simple ‘one page’ overview of key operational risk information available to crews in initial attendance.</p>	<p>A new legal requirement on building owners and managers to provide information on their external walls is required.</p> <p>Awaiting legislation changes for this to happen. E.g. Building Safety Act</p>
6	that the owner and manager of every high-rise residential building be required by law: to ensure that the building contains a premises information box, the contents of which must include a copy of the up-to-date floor plans and information about the nature of any lift intended for use by the fire and rescue services.	<p>Standard letters have been amended to <i>recommend</i> the implementation of premise information boxes within all High Rise Residential Buildings.</p> <p>Premise information box are checked to see if present during our audits and inspections.</p>	<p>A new legal requirement on building owners and managers to provide information on their external walls is required.</p> <p>Awaiting legislation changes for this to happen. E.g. Building Safety Act.</p>



Implementation of Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations

8	<p>that the owner and manager of every high-rise residential building be required by law to carry out regular inspections of any lifts that are designed to be used by firefighters in an emergency and to report the results of such inspections to their local fire and rescue service at monthly intervals;</p>	<p>Fire Safety Inspecting Officers do check maintenance and inspection reports during our audit process</p> <p>Amended our site specific risk information form so our crews can note information around lifts such as location, activation, access etc.</p> <p>Developing an LMS training package on lifts which will be available to crews from September 2021.</p>	<p>A new legal requirement on building owners and managers to provide information on their external walls is required. Awaiting legislation changes for this to happen. E.g. Building Safety Act</p>
9	<p>that the owner and manager of every high-rise residential building be required by law to carry out regular tests of the mechanism which allows firefighters to take control of the lifts and to inform their local fire and rescue service at monthly intervals that they have done so.</p>	<p>Fire Safety Inspecting Officers do check maintenance and inspection reports during our audit process</p> <p>Amended our site specific risk information form so our crews can note information around lifts such as location, activation, access etc.</p> <p>Developing an LMS training package around lifts and will be available to our crews from September 2021.</p>	<p>A new legal requirement on building owners and managers to provide information on their external walls is required. Awaiting legislation changes for this to happen. E.g. Building Safety Act</p>
21	<p>that the LAS and the MPS review their protocols and policies to ensure that their operators can identify FSG calls (as defined by the LFB) and pass them to the LFB as soon as possible.</p>	<p>TVFCS are working with Hampshire Fire and Rescue services to develop an FSG policy/training which can be used by SCAS and TVP. This is will be continued once our FSG policy has been through consultation and published during July.</p>	
30	<p>that the owner and manager of every high-rise residential building be required by law to draw up and keep under regular review evacuation plans, copies of which are to be provided in electronic and paper form to their local fire and rescue service and placed in an information box on the premises</p>	<p>Started to identify how we would receive such plans, where we would store them and how we make them accessible during an incident.</p> <p>We have amended a number of our standard letters to include a recommendation that evacuation plans should be sent to local Fire and Rescue Services and also stored within a Premise Information Box.</p>	<p>A new legal requirement on building owners and managers to provide information on their external walls is required. Awaiting legislation changes for this to happen. E.g. Building Safety Act</p>



Implementation of Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations

31	<p>that all high-rise residential buildings (both those already in existence and those built in the future) be equipped with facilities for use by the fire and rescue services enabling them to send an evacuation signal to the whole or a selected part of the building by means of sounders or similar devices;</p>	<p>Training is currently being developed</p>	<p>A new British Standard has been designed and published during November 2019. NFCC have also published training materials to go alongside this which has been shared with all Fire and Rescue Services</p>
32	<p>that the owner and manager of every high-rise residential building be required by law to prepare personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEPs) for all residents whose ability to self-evacuate may be compromised (such as persons with reduced mobility or cognition)</p>	<p>We check with the Responsible Person for buildings within interim measures with a waking watch have considered PEEPs and have current version available during an audit. We have amended our standard letters to recommend that we are supplied with PEEPs where required.</p> <p>We have responded to the PEEPs consultation.</p>	<p>A new legal requirement on building owners and managers to provide information on their external walls is required. Awaiting legislation changes for this to happen. E.g. Building Safety Act</p> <p>PEEPs Consultation is underway</p>
33	<p>that the owner and manager of every high-rise residential building be required by law to include up-to-date information about persons with reduced mobility and their associated PEEPs in the premises information box;</p>	<p>We check with the Responsible Person for buildings within interim measures with a waking watch have considered PEEPs and have current version available during an audit. We have amended our standard letters to recommend that we are supplied with PEEPs where required.</p> <p>We have responded to the PEEPs consultation.</p>	<p>This recommendation places duties on building owners and managers of HRRBs to help residents safely evacuate. We are awaiting legislation changes for this to happen.</p> <p>PEEPs Consultation is underway</p>
35	<p>that in all high-rise buildings floor numbers be clearly marked on each landing within the stairways and in a prominent place in all lobbies in such a way as to be visible both in normal conditions and in low lighting or smoky conditions.</p>	<p>The Service have updated their standard letters to include a recommendation around implementing internal signage.</p> <p>We have updated our site specific risk information form used by crews to include 'signage for firefighters' giving an opportunity to detail if signage is available and potential hazards.</p>	<p>A new legal requirement on building owners and managers to provide information on their external walls is required. Awaiting legislation changes for this to happen. E.g. Building Safety Act</p>



Implementation of Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations

36	<p>that the owner and manager of every residential building containing separate dwellings (whether or not it is a high-rise building) be required by law to provide fire safety instructions (including instructions for evacuation) in a form that the occupants of the building can reasonably be expected to understand, taking into account the nature of the building and their knowledge of the occupants.</p>	<p>The Service have amended our data collection proforma used during an audit to include the checking of Fire Safety instruction forms and if the information provided is correct.</p>	<p>This is aimed at placing new duties on building owners and managers of residential buildings to display floor numbers and fire safety instructions. This will require new legislation for it to happen.</p>
37	<p>that the owner and manager of every residential building containing separate dwellings (whether or not they are high-rise buildings) carry out an urgent inspection of all fire doors to ensure that they comply with applicable legislative standards;</p>	<p>Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service are checking fire doors within our audits.</p> <p>In addition, we are producing an Learning Management System (LMS) package for our crews covering basic information in regards to fire doors.</p>	<p>Aimed at placing new duties on building owners and managers of residential buildings to ensure fire doors are working properly and regularly checked. This will require new legislation.</p>
38	<p>that the owner and manager of every residential building containing separate dwellings (whether or not they are high-rise buildings) be required by law to carry out checks at not less than three-monthly intervals to ensure that all fire doors are fitted with effective self-closing devices in working order.</p>	<p>Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service are checking fire doors within our audits.</p> <p>In addition, we are producing an LMS package for our crews covering basic information in regards to fire doors</p>	<p>This is aimed at placing new duties on building owners and managers of residential buildings to ensure fire doors are working properly and are regularly checked. This will require new legislation for it to happen.</p>
39	<p>that all those who have responsibility in whatever capacity for the condition of the entrance doors to individual flats in high-rise residential buildings, whose external walls incorporate unsafe cladding, be required by law to ensure that such doors comply with current standards.</p>	<p>Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service are checking fire doors within our audits.</p> <p>In addition, we are producing an LMS package for our crews covering basic information in regards to fire doors</p>	<p>This is aimed at placing new duties on building owners and managers of residential buildings to ensure fire doors are working properly and are regularly checked. This will require new legislation for it to happen.</p>
45	<p>that steps be taken to ensure that the airborne datalink system on every NPAS helicopter observing an incident which involves one of the other emergency services defaults to the National Emergency Service user encryption</p>	<p>An assurance exercise has been carried out to ensure that we are able to download and receive images from the TVP helicopter. We are currently producing a document informing crews how they request this service (and other aerial support).</p>	



High Rise Residential Buildings Project

Our High Rise Residential Buildings (HRRB) project came into being in August 2020, since then we have embarked on an ambitious schedule of audits of an identified 198 HRRBs taking into account all types of cladding systems.

The project was set up in alignment with the NFCC Building Risk Review (BRR) and reported their progress on a monthly basis. The HRRB team comprised of existing resource supported by a number of specialist external associates to help with the demand and more complex issues that arose.

It has become increasingly apparent that the majority of cladding systems, not just ACM (the type used at Grenfell Tower) have failed or will fail the safety tests in terms of external fire spread. During Phase 1 of our project we had a clear focus on cladding however, Fire Safety Inspecting Officers (FSIO) were instructed to take a more intrusive approach to investigating internal compartmentation arrangements.

Prior to establishing the project team there were 22 buildings within interim measures, these are usually buildings with significant cladding issues with interim arrangements in place to support a simultaneous evacuation. At the close of Phase 1 a further 12 had been added with another 2 awaiting review, giving the Service a total of 34 buildings within interim measures. These buildings require a greater level of management and a regular interactions.

During Phase 1 of the project, which came to a close during July 2021, the team visited 187 buildings (the remaining 8 identified were either duplicates, demolished or not yet built)

We have now moved into Phase 2 of the project, where the team will revisit and concentrate on the 80% of buildings found that require further management.

Appendix 1 provides a summary of HRRB project phase 1 findings.



Next Steps

This is a significant programme of work within a complex and changing environment.

Whilst our objectives and priorities will almost certainly adjust and change along the way, we are committed to learning and acting on the lessons from the Grenfell Tower incident and subsequent inquiry. Furthermore, we recognise the broader challenges associated with the built environment. Our desire to continuously learn and improve in these areas will mean continued investment and focus for many years to come.

As a Service we have worked extremely hard to accomplish what we have to date, but recognise we have much more to do. We will continue to liaise with external groups to ensure we align to national opportunities and that the Service is well placed in understanding and addressing issues that arise. Where possible we want to be at the leading edge of improvements in this area and share our learning with others.

As described, many of the recommendations that are addressed to building owners and managers will require new legislation. The Fire Safety Act and proposed Building Safety Bill are expected to address a number of the recommendations and we are well placed to understand these and respond quickly when they do. The proposed new Building Safety Regulator will create new challenges for fire services to respond to, but RBFRS welcome the strengthening regulatory framework to make buildings and residents safer.

The Programme will provide a further review and evaluation of milestones in winter 2021/22 which will enable us to assure that we are on track to achieve our priority objectives and provide assurance to residents through transparent progress updates.



Appendix 1: RBFRS' performance dashboard in regards to the HRRB (Phase 1) Project

» BUILT ENVIRONMENT UPDATE IN NUMBERS



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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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