

## **GRENFELL TOWER – SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **What is the London Emergencies Trust?**

The London Emergencies Trust (LET) is a registered charity and came into being after the terrorist attack on Westminster Bridge in March 2017.

### **What does it do?**

LET is working with the [British Red Cross](#) and other funders to distribute charitable donations by the public to those bereaved and injured by the terror attacks at: [Westminster](#); [London Bridge](#); [Finsbury Park](#); and [Parsons Green](#).

It is also helping with the distribution of donated cash to the bereaved and injured of the [Grenfell Tower fire](#).

### **Why LET?**

Most of us were involved in the last charitable response that followed the 7/7 attacks. So, we have that experience to rely on and the learning from it. In addition, we have experience of the professional business of grant-making and making sure any donations are properly spent and accounted for. Donors can be reassured that their money will get to the people who need it most. And the people who need it most can be assured they will be dealt with speedily and with compassion.

### **What is LET's role in relation to the Grenfell Tower fire?**

Our role is a special one: to get money to the bereaved next of kin who lost loved ones and to those who were hospitalised as a result of the fire.

Other charitable organisations are helping people who were made homeless and destitute. Information about all of the charities that are helping survivors and the bereaved was compiled by the [Charity Commission](#), which publishes a fortnightly update.

## **How much of the public donations has LET received?**

LET has received just over £8m to distribute to the bereaved and injured of Grenfell. This has come from the British Red Cross (£5.6m); London Community Foundation (£1.2m); K&C Foundation (£1.2m); Goldsmith Company (£10k); Royal Ascot Racecourse (£19.4k); Saffrey Champness (£5k); YOU Magazine (£1,295).

## **How much has LET awarded and who has received it?**

As of 4 January 2018, we have made 123 grants worth £6,423,000 to the families of those who were killed and to those injured. These grants cover payments to the next of kin of 71 people who died in the fire, and for 58 people who were injured and hospitalised.

## **Who counts as next of kin?**

LET trustees exercise their discretion when making grants. Working out which person(s) in families receive payments can be complicated. To help guide them, trustees use English law intestacy rules in the first instance, but may take a more flexible approach where family members clearly consent.

## **Is LET dealing with any other cases?**

We have had 141 applications in total. We are still working with families, the police and the NHS on 6 more complicated cases (total value £540,000). Most involve establishing the next of kin or working with families to protect the interests of people under the age of 18 through, for example, trusts. Others involve getting access to confirmation from medics about how long people were in hospital.

## **Will you publish a list of everyone receiving financial support and how much they received?**

No, because that is confidential information. However, the amounts we pay to next of kin or for injury are set out in the fortnightly Charity Commission updates. We also tweet them regularly from [@LET\\_2017](https://twitter.com/LET_2017).

## **How were these sums arrived at?**

These are based on the approach agreed with the British Red Cross for distribution and are on the same basis as payments we make to those affected by the terrorist incidents in London this year to next of kin or those who were injured. LET made initial payments, as quickly as possible, and then when more funds were available went back to increase payments made to the injured and bereaved.

### **Has anyone else received money from LET?**

In September LET was also able to make payments totalling £773,000 to 165 households at Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk who are struggling with the distress and trauma of living through the fire. These were made by BACS via our colleagues at the Rugby Portobello Trust.

### **Why are you holding on to some of the money and will it be distributed to people affected by the Grenfell Tower fire?**

Before the number of those who died was confirmed by the police we had to ring-fence £1,920,000 so that we could be in a position to pay out to the families of up to 32 further deceased cases that might come to us. This was so that we could make payments on the same basis as next of kin already getting support from us.

We are now looking at how we can make further 'top up' payments to next of kin and injured with the remaining money as soon as possible. LET is on track to do this and will have distributed £7,781,000 by early New Year.

### **How much of the donated money is being spent on LET's administration costs?**

100% of the donated funds are distributed to Grenfell bereaved next of kin and injured. None of the funds passed to LET are used to cover operating costs. LET fundraises separately with trusts and foundations to cover its core operating costs. It also relies on significant pro bono support – for example, staff from other charities have been seconded in to assist; office space and legal services have been donated free of charge.

### **Will you publish details of your costs and what you have been doing?**

Yes, we expect to publish our Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2017 in the summer of 2018 after an independent audit. As a registered charity, and a company with solely charitable aims, we must do this to comply with the law.

---

**LET's Director is Rob Bell**

**Email address: [Director@londonemergenciestrust.org.uk](mailto:Director@londonemergenciestrust.org.uk)**