

Press release: Protection from prosecution for unlawful subletting at Grenfell Tower

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid has announced guidance from the Director of Public Prosecutions not to prosecute tenants at Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk for unlawful subletting.

This would apply when any individual comes forward with information for the authorities about those who were in their flats on the night of the fire.

This follows the government's commitment to do all that it can to support those who have been affected by the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower.

Anecdotal evidence from the community suggests that some of the tenants in the tower block may have been unlawfully sub-letting their properties. This may mean people are reluctant to come forward with valuable information that would help to identify anyone still missing.

□The Director of Public Prosecutions, in consultation with the Attorney General, has now issued guidance to prosecutors not to bring charges for this offence, given the public interest must be in being able to identify the victims of the fire. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has also confirmed it will respect this guidance.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Supporting those affected by the tragic events at Grenfell Tower has been the absolute priority of the government. That includes making sure that loved ones still missing are identified. Therefore I would urge those with information to come forward without fear of prosecution.

Attorney General Jeremy Wright QC said:

Every piece of information will help the authorities accurately identify who was in the flats at the time of the fire. I hope this statement provides some much needed clarity to residents and the local community, and encourages anyone with information to come forward.

Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, said:

It is a priority for investigators to establish who was in Grenfell

Tower on that tragic day and it is crucial that we do everything possible to support them.

Guidance issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions makes clear that tenants of Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk who were sub-letting their properties on the night of the fire and who have, or do, come forward to the authorities so they can be confirmed as safe and or to indicate that others were resident in their flat when the fire took place, should not face prosecution for offences under [section 1 of the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013](#).

News story: GLD barristers are winners in the Employed Bar Awards

The inaugural Bar Council Employed Bar Awards ceremony on 30 June saw the award for 'Outstanding achievement by a public service barrister' go to GLD's David Browitt (DfT Legal Advisers), and the first ever 'Young employed barrister of the year' confirmed as GLD's Matthew Johnston (Home Office Legal Advisers).

The 'Young employed barrister of the year' award is for a barrister with under 7 years' practice. The judges praised Matthew's clarity, calmness, objectivity and expertise in his work, and his understanding of ministerial priorities.

The award for 'Outstanding achievement by a public service barrister' was open to the CPS, GLD, local government and public service defenders. The judges noted David's clear leadership, energy and guidance in his work, his team working and his fine legal judgment.

Jonathan Jones said:

As one of the judges of the first ever Employed Bar Awards I naturally approached my role with complete impartiality. Nonetheless I was very pleased to see that a number of GLD lawyers had been nominated and shortlisted (I played no part in the shortlisting). And I am delighted that all the judges agreed on Matthew and David as the winners in their categories. The work that we do in GLD is unlike the work of any other members of the employed Bar, and it is fantastic that the achievements and dedication of our people are now being celebrated by the wider profession.

The full list of those shortlisted (which also included GLD lawyers Jamie Johnston and Tom Reveley, both of DfE Legal Advisers) and all category winners can be found on the [Bar Council website](#).

The allegations of unlawful killings and war crimes in Afghanistan are extremely serious and must be fully investigated – Jeremy Corbyn

Responding to allegations of a cover up of unlawful killings by U.K. forces in Afghanistan, Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, said:

"The allegations of unlawful killings and war crimes in Afghanistan are extremely serious and must be fully investigated.

"Our armed forces have a reputation for decency and bravery. If we do not act on such shocking allegations we risk undermining that reputation, our security at home and the safety of those serving in the armed forces abroad.

"Our values and respect for the rule of law require full accountability. We owe it to our armed forces and the victims and their families to ensure that a thorough investigation takes place.

"There can be no question of a cover up. The government must now establish an independent inquiry into what has taken place."

"It is unacceptable that it has taken until now for the council to suspend

rent for displaced residents in Grenfell Tower” – Gwynne

In

response to Kensington and Chelsea council suspending rent payments for Grenfell residents, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Andrew Gwynne MP, said:

"It is unacceptable that it has taken until now for the council to suspend rent for displaced residents in Grenfell Tower and the surrounding area that were evacuated from their homes.

"People have been made homeless in this tragedy, lost family, friends and everything they own – Sajid Javid needs to finally show some leadership and send in commissioners to take control of this council."

News story: Multi-billion pound defence deal secures thousands of UK jobs

Manufacture of the first three of these new highly capable warships will secure approximately 1700 skilled shipbuilding jobs in Scotland and 1700 jobs throughout the supply chain across Britain until 2035.

Defence Secretary, Sir Michael Fallon said:

The Type 26 Frigate is a cutting-edge warship, combining the expertise of the British shipbuilding industry with the excellence of the Royal Navy. We will cut steel on the first ship later this month – a hugely significant milestone that delivers on our commitment to maintain our global naval power. These ships will be a force to be reckoned with, there to protect our powerful new carriers and helping keep British interests safe across the world.

Backed by a rising defence budget and a £178bn Equipment Plan, the Type 26 programme will bring vast economic benefits to Scotland and the wider UK. The contract is structured to ensure value for taxpayers' money and, importantly, now designed to protect them

from extra bills from project overrun. The investment will secure hundreds of skilled jobs at BAE Systems on the Clyde for the next twenty years, and thousands of jobs in the supply chain across Britain.

The Royal Navy's new Type 26 frigate.

These world-class warships will protect the nation's nuclear deterrent and the Royal Navy's new aircraft carriers, the first of which, HMS Queen Elizabeth, has recently taken to sea for the first time. The ships specialise in anti-submarine warfare, protecting the UK's overseas territories and interests across the globe. The flexible design will allow the capabilities to be adapted throughout its lifespan to counter future threats.

The deal also reaffirms the commitment made by the Government in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR15) to build eight Type 26 ships. The contract for the second batch of five ships is expected to be negotiated in the early 2020s, paving the way to sustain further jobs in Scotland and across the wider supply chain for many years to come. The Type 26 programme will secure the long term future of the Scottish shipbuilding industry.

Admiral Sir Philip Jones, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, said:

For an island nation, dependent on maritime trade, a strong Royal Navy is essential for our national security and economic prosperity. Today there are over 500 submarines in the world operated by 40 navies. As one of the quietest and most potent submarine-hunters of any Navy, the Type 26 will have a crucial role to play to protect the nuclear deterrent and our two new aircraft carriers.

Although designed to fight and win in the most demanding scenarios, they will also work alongside our international partners to protect and promote the United Kingdom's interests around the world.

A Computer Generated Image of the Royal Navy's new Type 26 frigate.

The Type 26 will be the most advanced anti-submarine warfare ship in its class around the world. The MOD is exploring potential export opportunities where there is strong interest from international customers.

The contract is specifically structured to motivate both sides to deliver to a successful outcome where both parties share in the pain and gain in the delivery of the programme. This will deliver better value for money for the UK taxpayer.

The MOD spent £1.5 billion with Scottish businesses last year and supports 9,700 jobs across Scotland. The Royal Navy's new Queen Elizabeth Carriers are being built in Rosyth and the new Offshore Patrol Vessels are under

construction in Govan and Scotstoun ahead of this summer's Type 26 Frigate steel cut.