

GRENFELL TOWER MEMORIAL (EXPENDITURE) BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTES

What these notes do

These Explanatory Notes relate to the Grenfell Tower Memorial (Expenditure) Bill as brought from the House of Commons on 17 March 2026 (HL Bill 178).

- These Explanatory Notes have been prepared by the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government in order to assist the reader of the Bill and to help inform debate on it. They do not form part of the Bill and have not been endorsed by Parliament.
- These Explanatory Notes explain what each part of the Bill will mean in practice; provide background information on the development of policy; and provide additional information on how the Bill will affect existing legislation in this area.
- These Explanatory Notes might best be read alongside the Bill. They are not, and are not intended to be, a comprehensive description of the Bill.

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Overview of the Bill

- 1 The purpose of the Grenfell Tower Memorial (Expenditure) Bill is to make provision for expenditure by the Secretary of State on, and in connection, with the construction, use, maintenance, operation and improvement of a memorial commemorating the victims of the 14 June 2017 Grenfell Tower fire.
- 2 This Bill also makes provision for expenditure on, and in connection, with preserving, archiving or exhibiting elements of the tower, materials removed from there or any other material relating to the fire, for the use, maintenance, operation and improvement of an archive, exhibition and of a site where elements of the Grenfell Tower are laid to rest. In addition, the Bill provides authority for expenditure on the acquisition of land in connection with the above and for the conduct of works on such land.

Policy background

- 3 On 14 June 2017, the Grenfell Tower fire resulted in the greatest loss of life in a residential fire since the Second World War, with profound and lasting consequences for bereaved families, survivors, the immediate North Kensington community, and the wider nation. The tragedy continues to shape the Government's commitment to remembrance, accountability and long-term stewardship of the site.
- 4 In response to the tragedy, the previous Government committed to supporting bereaved and survivor families and the immediate community in the creation of a fitting and lasting memorial, to honour those who lost their lives, and those whose lives were forever changed by the tragedy.
- 5 The independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission (the Commission) was subsequently established in 2019 to develop proposals for a fitting, permanent memorial and to advise on future ownership, management, and stewardship arrangements.
- 6 In November 2023, the Commission published its report "[Remembering Grenfell](#)", setting out community-led recommendations for the memorial. These include the creation of a permanent, sacred memorial space; a dedicated second site for materials from the Tower; the establishment of both a physical and digital archive; and an exhibition. The report also made clear that the memorial should never be allowed to fall into neglect and must be underpinned by secure, long-term management and funding.
- 7 The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the 2023 Commission report and remains fully committed to supporting the creation and long-term management of a fitting and lasting memorial. This includes providing the necessary spending authority through legislation, ensuring transparent and sustainable stewardship arrangements, and enabling the delivery of the second site, archive, and permanent exhibition.
- 8 Community-led design and planning work is underway and will continue while Parliament considers the Bill. A design team for the memorial was appointed in November 2025, enabling the next phase of detailed design and planning to progress. The Commission has committed to beginning construction of the memorial in mid-2027.
- 9 The Bill does not alter or provide powers relating to planning consent, structural or safety decisions regarding the Grenfell Tower site, or future ownership and stewardship arrangements. These matters will continue to be governed by existing legislation and policy frameworks (as applicable).

Legal Background

- 10 The Bill provides the Secretary of State with specific statutory authority to spend public money on activities connected to commemorating the victims of the 14 June 2017 Grenfell Tower fire. This legislation is solely to provide specific statutory authority for the more significant, long-term spending which will need to be incurred.
- 11 As above, some expenditure has been incurred to date in connection with the preparation and design of the memorial. More significant expenditure will need to be incurred to construct, maintain, operate or improve the memorial, the site where elements of the Grenfell Tower are laid to rest, and the associated physical and digital archives and exhibition, and to support any required land acquisitions or construction works. The Government is seeking Parliamentary authority for this expenditure through this Bill.
- 12 The Bill is a free-standing expenditure authorisation and does not amend or repeal existing legislation.

Territorial extent and application

- 13 This Bill extends UK wide and applies to England only; it authorises expenditure on activities in England.

Commentary on provisions of Bill

Clause 1: Expenditure relating to commemorating the victims of the fire at Grenfell Tower

- 14 This clause provides for the Secretary of State to incur expenditure in England in relation to the construction, use, maintenance, improvement or operation of a memorial commemorating the victims of the 14 June 2017 Grenfell Tower fire.
- 15 Although the bill does not define “victims of the fire”, this includes those who passed away, were injured, survivors, bereaved, family members, the immediate and the wider community affected by the tragedy.
- 16 This clause also makes provision for preserving, archiving or exhibiting elements of the Tower, materials removed from the Tower and other materials relating to the fire. This clause also makes provision for the use, maintenance, operation and improvement of the archive, and exhibition, and of land where elements of the Tower are, or may be buried, to enable them to be safely and respectfully ‘laid to rest’.
- 17 Provision is also made to permit land to be acquired in connection with the above and for works to be carried out on it.

Clause 2: Short title

- 18 This clause provides for the Bill’s short title to be the Grenfell Tower Memorial (Expenditure) Act upon reaching Royal Assent.

Commencement

- 19 This Bill comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.

Financial implications of the Bill

- 20 The authorised expenditure is expected to include capital costs for constructing the memorial and associated works, and ongoing operating and maintenance costs for the memorial, any site at which elements of the Tower are buried, the archive and the exhibition.
- 21 The Government will procure all contracts in accordance with relevant procurement regulations (e.g. Procurement Act 2023) publishing any related tenders and contract detail notices on Find a Tender including Freehaus who have been appointed, on behalf of the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission, to co-design the memorial with the community¹.
- 22 Cost estimates will be published once design and delivery plans are sufficiently developed, and expenditure will be met from money provided by Parliament.

Parliamentary approval for financial costs or for charges imposed

- 23 A money resolution is required for the Bill as the Bill will give rise to new or increased charges on the public revenue. The money resolution will cover expenditure authorised by the Bill.

¹ [Multi-disciplinary design team - Grenfell Memorial - Find a Tender](#)

24 The House of Commons approved the money resolution at Second Reading on 16 March 2026.

Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

25 The Lords Minister for Housing and Local Government, Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, has made a statement under section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998 that, in her view, the provisions of the Bill are compatible with the Convention.

Compatibility with section 20 of the Environment Act

26 The Lords Minister for Housing and Local Government, Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, is of the view that the Bill as brought from the House of Commons does not contain provision which, if enacted, would be environmental law for the purposes of section 20 of the Environment Act 2021. Accordingly, no statement under that section has been made.

Duty under section 13C of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

27 As required under the Windsor Framework (Constitutional Status of Northern Ireland) Regulations 2024 which amend the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 the Minister in charge of a Bill will need to make a written statement about the consistency of that Bill with the UK internal market.

28 The Lords Minister for Housing and Local Government, Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, is of the view that the Bill as published does not contain provisions which affect trade between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. Accordingly, no statement under that section has been made.

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