

Grenfell Phase 2 report: lessons for us all

Following publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's final report into the tragedy, the Institution of Structural Engineers will play its part in delivering the change needed to ensure public safety.

The publication of the Phase 2 Report of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry on 4 September is a significant milestone in setting out the events leading to the fire and the tragic loss of 72 lives. Our thoughts continue to be with all those impacted by the fire as this final report is made public.

The report highlights the conclusions reached in the Inquiry and its recommendations to address the longstanding failures that culminated in the Grenfell Tower fire. The Institution has begun the process of examining the contents and recommendations from this comprehensive inquiry and will carefully consider the additional actions we can undertake to support our overriding objective of ensuring public safety.

Competence and culture changes across the whole of the built environment professions were key recommendations from Dame Judith Hackitt's impactful *Building a Safer Future* report (May 2018). We welcome the continued emphasis on the importance of ensuring that the skills, knowledge and experience of those engaged in the construction industry are at the highest level. The Inquiry report focused on the steps that should be taken to ensure fire safety but acknowledged that there was 'no reason to think that other aspects of building safety are not subject to similar considerations'.

Competence lies at the heart of the Institution's work. We will continue to ensure that the qualifying standards for membership, the ongoing requirement to operate within a Code of Conduct and the need to undertake mandatory Continuing Professional Development sets the benchmark in structural engineering competence. We will continue to promote the need for all structural engineers to become professionally qualified and we will work with the UK government and



“ WE WILL WORK WITH THE UK GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO LEAD THE WAY IN RAISING STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING STANDARDS

other stakeholders to lead the way in raising structural engineering standards to bring about the necessary cultural changes to improve standards and protect the public.

Reporting issues to prevent incidents from happening is part of a necessary culture change in the built environment, and so we continue to support the important work of Collaborative Reporting for Safer Structures (CROSS). CROSS is a confidential reporting system that allows professionals working in the

built environment to report on fire and structural safety issues.

We encourage all structural and fire engineers to read the reports and engage with CROSS to ensure that the lessons identified within the reports are disseminated as widely as possible and action is taken to address the highlighted issues.

We also continue to support the work of the Building Safety Regulator, working with it to identify and resolve structural safety issues that need to be addressed to protect the public.

The Inquiry report is detailed and has far reaching recommendations. The Institution will consider the report in detail and will work quickly to ensure we play our part in highlighting the appropriate standards and behaviours required to ensure structural safety and protect the public.

Both the full report and an executive summary are available at www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/phase-2-report.