

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Grenfell Tower Memorial (Expenditure) Act 2026

Chapter 16

£8.90

GRENFELL TOWER MEMORIAL (EXPENDITURE) ACT 2026

EXPLANATORY NOTES

What these notes do

These Explanatory Notes relate to the Grenfell Tower Memorial (Expenditure) Act which received Royal Assent on 29th April 2026 (c. 16).

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

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Overview of the Act

1 The Grenfell Tower Memorial (Expenditure) Act makes 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 Act 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 Act 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*"[1], 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. 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 2027.

[1] https://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/storage/2025/06/Grenfell-Tower-Memorial-Commission-report_10Nov2023_1.pdf

9 The Act 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 This Act 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, on preservation, and the associated physical and digital archives and exhibition, and to support any required land acquisitions or associated construction works.

12 This Act is a free-standing expenditure authorisation and does not amend or repeal existing legislation.

Territorial extent and application

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

Fast-Track Legislation

14 The government has asked the House of Commons to expedite the parliamentary progress of this Act. In their report on Fast-track Legislation: Constitutional Implications and Safeguards[2], the House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution recommended that the government should provide more information as to why a piece of legislation should be fast-tracked.[3]

Why is fast-tracking necessary?

15 The government considered fast tracking this legislation necessary because it is a short, self-contained Act with a very specific and limited scope.

16 The Government also considered this necessary to secure Royal Assent by May 2026 in order to keep the programme on track and avoid delay.

17 This fast-tracking did not apply to the Act's passage through the House of Lords, which followed the usual procedure for money Acts.

[2] House of Lords' Constitution Committee, 15th report of session 2008/09, HL paper 116-I.

[3] House of Lords' Constitution Committee, 15th report of session 2008/09, HL paper 116-I, para. 186.

Commentary on provisions of Act

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

18 This section 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.

19 Although the Act 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.

20 This section 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 section 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'.

21 Provision is also made to permit land to be acquired in connection with the above and for works to be carried out on it.

22 Section 1 recognises that as a matter of House of Commons procedure, a financial resolution needed to be agreed for the Bill from which the Act resulted.

Section 2: Short title

23 This section provides for the Act's short title to be the Grenfell Tower Memorial (Expenditure) Act 2026.

Commencement

24 This Act comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.

Annex A – Hansard References

25 The following table sets out the dates and Hansard references for each stage of the Act's passage through Parliament.

Stage	Date	Hansard Reference
House of Commons		
Introduction	25 February 2026	Vol. 781 Col. 382
Second reading	16 March 2026	Vol. 782 Col. 704
Committee stage	16 March 2026	Vol. 782 Col. 722
Third reading	16 March 2026	Vol. 782 Col. 722
House of Lords		
Introduction	17 March 2026	Vol. 854 Col. 764
Second reading	14 April 2026	Vol. 855 Col 209
Committee stage	14 April 2026	Vol. 855 Col. 245
Third reading	14 April 2026	Vol. 855 Col. 245
Royal Assent	29 April 2026	Vol. 855

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