



Architectural Technical Leads Group

ATLG Open Letter in Response to The Grenfell Phase 2 Report

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1. Introduction

Since the publication of Phase 2 of the Grenfell Report, the ATLG have been discussing its contents and have now released an open letter in support of the recommendations of the Report.

About the ATLG

The Architectural Technical Leads Group (ATLG) is a forum for architects and other designers to discuss technical issues, share knowledge and resources, and drive improvement in the UK construction industry formed following the Building Regulation amendments in 2023. The group has 330 members in over 190 member practices, varying in size from single practitioners to thousands of staff, across all sectors around the UK. Since its creation, the group has provided a forum for those taking on the new dutyholder roles. Our members have developed and contributed to the RIBA Building Regulations Principal Designer compliance tracker, standard forms for those taking on the BRPD dutyholder role, and continued with developing consensus on issues facing our industry.

Contact

For enquiries, please contact the ATLG board at press@atlg.uk.

Statement

Please see the full text of the open letter on the following pages. This will be issued to industry publications and published on the ATLG website at www.atlg.uk/#Publications.

Endorsing Practices

Please see the last page for a list of practices publicly endorsing the statement..

2. ATLG Open Letter in Response to The Grenfell Phase 2 Report

The ATLG welcomes the release of Phase 2 of the Grenfell Report and its recommendations for the design and construction industry. Since the publication of the report the key bodies of the architectural design community, ARB, RIBA, and CIAT have made commitments to revise the codes of conduct to which we all work, and to improve training processes and the competence of designers. The ATLG supports these proposals.

The ATLG is gathering evidence and will work to release detailed recommendations in cooperation with other industry bodies in support of the report. In the short term we have identified a series of immediate priorities. We urge our industry and government to support the recommendations in the report by taking the actions listed below:

1. Strengthened Guidance for Clients

There continues to be evidence of clients unaware of their duties and those of the BRPD, and failing to allow sufficient time, expertise, and resources to projects. This contributes to unrealistic and fragmented design programmes and processes.

We call for enhanced plain English Guidance detailing clients' and teams statutory duties at each step to allocate sufficient time and to enable adequate resource throughout all design stages to facilitate compliant designs that are safe, sustainable and accessible.

2. Clear Gateway Guidance and Provide Adequate Resources for the Building Safety Regulator

The group has identified that the current guidance and messaging on the Gateway requirements is inconsistent and incomplete, resulting in excessive detail being thrown into submissions and slowing approvals.

We call for clear guidance on the extent of detail required for Gateways 2 and 3, including any processes needed for post-gateway 2 design development, and to communicate real processing times to allow clients and contractors to allocate appropriate programmes.

We ask that sufficient resources are provided for the Building Safety Regulator to perform its regulatory functions effectively.

3. Transparency and Lower-Cost Availability of Safety Standards

The group sees the high cost of the safety-critical Standards documents referenced in the Approved Documents as a key barrier to compliance.

We call for the Standards required to achieve safe buildings to be made available at low or no-cost making this critical information fully accessible to all stakeholders.

4. Update and Extend the Approved Documents and Manual

The group feels the structure and arrangement of the Approved Documents remains inconsistent, difficult to cross reference and to track amendments.

We call for an overhaul of the Approved Documents and Manual in consultation with the industry to provide comprehensive Technical Guidance documents with clear recognised routes to Building Regulations compliance.

5. Construction Products Information and Guidance

The group needs accurate, timely, and complete product and system information from suppliers and manufacturers, including the information needed to support commonly used interfaces.

We call for manufacturers and suppliers to provide comprehensive information through mechanisms such as material passports, that all test information be made public, and that they commit to provide standardised test data to support commonly used interfaces.

We ask that the government implement a duty to warn if manufacturers know their products are being used in non-compliant arrangements.

The release of the Grenfell Phase 1 Report, Hackitt Report and Grenfell Phase 2 Report highlight the dangers within construction products, guidance, approvals processes, and from fragmented and complex procurement and design arrangements. The ATLG advocates meaningful change and continuous improvement within the industry to address these problems. We invite feedback and collaboration from all stakeholders to ensure that our efforts are inclusive and effective.

3. List of Endorsing Practices

The practices below publicly endorse the statement and support its publication.

3DReid

Acme

Ackroyd Lowrie

ADP Architecture

AEW Architects & Designers Ltd

Allford Hall Monaghan Morris

Allies and Morrison

Allison Brooks Architects

Apt

Archatech Ltd

ArchitecturePLB

Architype

Arup Architecture

Atomik Architecture

AWW

Barr Gazetas

Basha-Franklin

BDP

BGY

Bond Bryan

BPTW

BSBG Architects

Broadway Malyan

Conran and Partners

Corstorphine & Wright

Cousins & Cousins

COWEN + PARTNERS

CPMG Architects Limited

daab design Architects

DAY Architectural Ltd

dRMM

ECD Architects

EPR Architects

FBM Architects

Fereday Pollard

Fletcher Priest Architects

Floyd Slaski Architects Ltd

Gensler

Gort Scott

GRID Architects

Hawkins\Brown

HKS Architects Ltd.

HTA Design LLP

IID Architects

JTP

LA London

Lawray Architects

Levitt Bernstein

Maccleanor Lavington

Morris+Company

NBBJ Ltd.

Pitman Tozer

PRP Architects

Scott Brownrigg

Sonnemann Toon Architects

SpecStudio

Stanton Williams

Studio Egret West

Studio PDP

Supervene Architects Ltd

Turner.Works

Urban Mesh Design Ltd

Waugh Thistleton Architects

Weedon Architects

White Ink Architects

White Red Architects

WW+P (Weston Williamson + Partners)