

# Grenfell Tower: The Most Serious Cover-up of Institutional Negligence in Recent British Legal History?

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*The Kensington Local Authority in London must be relieved. They knowingly authorised the conversion of an existing fire-safe, residential tower block into a potential fire-bomb that would tragically consume itself with nearly everyone inside, yet no one official has been brought to account after two years. Instead, the London Fire Service – who had no connection with the dangerous cladding of this building but whose job is to save lives in the event of fire – has been apparently scapegoated in an obscene shifting of culpability.*

The Council knowingly authorised the exterior of a fire-safe, multi-storey, residential tower block to be cosmetically clad in a known fire-accelerant, polymer foam – a material that had been documented for over 50 years to be a highly dangerous and flammable which would emit a lethal hydrogen cyanide gas that could kill in less than a minute. (The same gas that was used in Nazi concentration camps in WW2). Data sheets on isocyanate based, polymer foams and their properties, are available in any library. That very real, potential danger would have been well-known to the manufacturers and suppliers of such cladding; to those who specified it and ordered it; to the architects and surveyors concerned and also to the Local Authority building inspectors.

Yet no one has been charged with manslaughter or gross criminal negligence or anything else, after two whole years and 1000 pages of an official report that has to date failed to report on the specific cause(s) of the calamitous fire. Instead, the conflagration and terrible loss of life are blamed upon the London Fire Service!

This must surely rank as potentially the most serious cover-up of institutional negligence ever perpetrated in recent British legal history.

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