



Archbishop of Canterbury meets Manchester Cladiators

Press Release – 10 March 2022

We are Manchester Cladiators, a voluntary group formed by residents in early 2019 to pressure the Government to protect innocent people fully and fairly from all costs to fix the collective state and industry failure, which has caused buildings across the region and country to have been constructed unsafely for decades.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, met with us and a group of residents in Manchester on Thursday, 10 March 2022. We met at the home of affected leaseholders at a flat in the Green Quarter, Manchester. The Archbishop was joined by Bishop David Walker who has been a supporter of Manchester Cladiators and our campaign since we formed.

The Archbishop spoke with a group of 6 residents from a range of unsafe buildings across the North West and took time to understand the issues faced by each person - the building issues, the bills they were facing and the impact this crisis has had on their mental health.

QUOTES FOR USE IN PUBLICATION

Rebecca Fairclough from Manchester Cladiators said: "We were honoured that the Archbishop found time to meet us and to hear first-hand the awful situation faced by millions of ordinary people across the country. The Archbishop told us about his experience of being at Grenfell just hours after the tragic fire nearly five years ago. We must ensure that nothing like that ever happens again, and that people are finally placed before politics, so that the injustices faced by millions of leaseholders are promptly and fairly resolved. "The Government must now ensure there is true statutory protection for leaseholders in the Building Safety Bill making its way through Parliament now."

The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "Although we know the facts around the building safety and cladding crisis, when you meet the people and see the trauma they have been through it really brings it home. We need action to deal with this injustice which is impacting millions of people across the country."

Notes to Editors

Manchester Cladiators, a voluntary, non-profit campaign group that represents thousands of leaseholders, across Greater Manchester, who are leaseholders of flats in buildings that have dangerous cladding or other fire safety issues for which we are being asked to pay to remediate, following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower in 2017. Alongside Inside Housing and the UK Cladding Action Group, we co-founded the national End Our Cladding Scandal campaign in 2019, which relaunched with multiple resident group partners and the Sunday Times on 27th September 2020.

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