



Federation Newsletter

Summer 2020

Making sure your voice is heard

Number 20

EVENTS

- FSF FORUM
6 July 2020
Online
- 8-10 September
2020
FIREX at EXCEL
- 22-24 September
2020
Fire Safety Event
NEC Birmingham
- Fire Safety
Conference
4 November 2020
QEII London
- INTERSCHUTZ
14 to 19 June 2021
Hannover.

Directors

Michael Harper – Chair
Andrew Lynch
Dave Russell
Dennis Davis
Jon O’Neil
Niall Rowan
Tom Roche

Links

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Grenfell Tower Third Anniversary

With the third anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire just passing we are all reminded how hard it must be for those affected and the need to keep going until we have safer buildings across Britain.

The Public Inquiry’s consultation on how best to resume hearings amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the Government-enforced lockdown period resulted in a substantial consensus in favour of limited attendance hearings in July at the earliest. [Inquiry](#)

RIBA responded to the government cladding consultation calling for extension to other buildings, key materials clarification, exclusion of the primary structure and inclusion of buildings over 11metres. [RIBA](#)

Forum Monday 6 July 2020

A Forum Meeting will be held online on Monday 6th July 2020.

Introduced by Michael Harper and with reports on progress from all Directors the business section of the meeting will be followed by a presentation on COVID-19 from a fire and rescue service perspective. The speaker has yet to be confirmed

External Wall Surveys

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors together with the Building Societies Association and UK Finance (representing the banks) late last year created an EWS1 form to find a way through lending stagnation on 18m+ residential buildings with cladding. The form is now used for many other buildings raising dep concerns on quality and expectations on fire risk assessments. The Federation as agreed to join discussions to clarify the situation. [RICS](#)

Fire Safety Bill

The Federation will be both making a submission for and attending the Public Bill Scrutiny Committee on 25 June 2020 for the revision proposals made in the FSB. The submission when completed will be available in the Government Consultations section of the members’ area on the web site [Basecamp](#)

COVID-19

The AXA Insurance team have produced a series of specific trade sector guides that also cover specific issues – the series has been released and provides guidance in facing the threat of Covid-19.

[AXA](#)

The Construction Leadership Council's Covid-19 Task Force has laid out proposals to secure the future of construction businesses nationwide, while setting the industry on a sustainable path towards recovery in a Construction Roadmap to Recovery Plan which was published 1 June 2020 [CIC](#)

BAFE backed by UKAS

The 'Don't Just Specify, Verify!' campaign, launched earlier this year, received a boost to creating greater awareness of Third Party Certification with the CEO of United Kingdom Accreditation Service adding accredited third-party certification of fire safety services are seen as an essential element of fulfilling statutory obligations and supporting BAFE, which it says has always shown great commitment to meeting the "gold standard"..

BSI Update

BS 9251 Fire sprinkler systems for domestic and residential occupancies – Code of practice which recommends design, installation, components, water, commissioning, maintenance and testing of fire sprinkler systems installed for life safety purposes where the building height is more than four storeys or 18 m, is now open for public comment with a deadline of the 27th July [9251](#)

Government Response - Sprinklers and other fire safety measures in new high-rise blocks of flats - Approved Document B 2019

The government has published its response and an impact on lowering the height and introducing wayfinding in new blocks of flats. After the 29 January amendments made to the ADB fire safety arrangements for dwellings and other buildings include in England sprinkler provisions and new guidance on consistent wayfinding signage which apply to flats or mixed-use buildings containing flats with a top floor more than 11 metres above ground level.

This includes all new buildings, material alterations, material changes of use and extensions. The impact is to reduce the current 30 metres height to 11 metres and to ensure floor identification and flat indicator signs are provided to assist finding access to the flats on each floor. [ADB Consultation](#)