



Federation Newsletter

Summer 2020

Making sure your voice is heard

Number 22

EVENTS

- 8-10 September 2020
FIREX at EXCEL
- Fire Safety Conference
4 November 2020
QEII London
- 27-29 April 2021
Fire Safety Event
NEC Birmingham
- 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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A SUNRISE Moment

Last month's welcomed publication of the Building Safety Bill and the Fire Safety Consultation, collectively heralding a hopeful sunrise on a new era of fire safety in buildings, has begun to be digested by many. The expansive role of HSE, the formation of new advisory committees, oversight and regulation, golden threads and gateways, the demands for external wall and door fire risk assessments, are all there, some in detail and so much more in outline.

Looking in the round at the two sets of proposals made by the two distinct government departments involved, the Home Office and MHCLG, who cover both aspects of construction and occupation, the Federation is, as you might expect, already considering how best to respond whilst harnessing all our Members' undoubted expertise.



The initial suggestion is that we should take care to ensure that the detail of each subject is seen in the context of the whole remaining vigilant for omissions. Assisting us stay mindful of possible gaps the strategy would be to follow a series of themes that are continuous throughout a building's life. This way managing fire risk will cover all the critical periods, like when buildings are adapted, modified and transformed for use and purpose through design and materials.

This prompts questions and observations on accountabilities and governance, risk assessment and mitigation processes, quality control and procured specifications, competency and supervision, good practice standards and guidance, regulation and oversight.

It would be so easy, particularly with the Bill, to concentrate on the construction rather than the legacy stage and with the Consultation, on walls and doors, rather than people and use. Getting the details of construction, walls and doors right is of course essential but so too is trying to help make this new package works as a whole.

Outlining this early thinking comes with a request for help. The Federation has a number of existing Forums and Directors will be seeking their opinions but **WE DO NEED YOUR INPUT AND EXPERTISE.**

All individual comments are therefore welcomed, indeed fully encouraged, regardless of whether it's on one fine point or on the much broader questions focused around the cohesiveness, consistency or comprehensive nature of the proposals. The request is 'please do use this great opportunity and get in touch' executive@firesectorfederation.co.uk

David Sugden Passive Fire Protection Leader



ASFP has announced with great sadness that David Sugden passed away last month. With a passion for passive fire protection David forcefully promoted the subject at home and abroad and was instrumental in the process of founding ASFP undertaking roles as Chair and CEO. [David](#)

BAFE SP207 Consultation

BAFE have announced their latest scheme covering the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of evacuation alert systems. These systems are used by the FRS in buildings containing flats across the UK. The Scheme has been developed with the support and cooperation of the National Security Inspectorate (NSI), Gerda and other industry parties. [BAFE207](#)



WALES: Consultation

The Welsh Government is consulting on how its policies and practices should change in light of the Grenfell fire with a possible recommendation that the Fire and Rescue Services should be more closely involved in the planning, design and construction of high-rise residential buildings. The closing date is 23 October. [FRS Wales](#)

THE CUBE Manchester



GMFRS has produced its own Incident Report and Key Observations on The Cube Fire, which happened on 15 November last year.

The aim, which includes an outline of the fire, is to offer constructive learning outcomes drawn from the operational response. A pdf copy of the report is available to download. [GMFRS](#)

ENGLAND: Trees

You may not know it but there is a tree champion and a tree strategy in England, and Defra are consulting on the latter until 11 September 2020. The FRS or those interested in the Green economy may wish to comment on the national tree planting strategy consultation. [England's Trees](#)