



# Federation Newsletter

Summer 2020

Making sure your voice is heard

Number 23

## EVENTS

- 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  
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## Next Generation of Fire Safety in Buildings

The long awaited Fire Safety Bill started its legal process of entering into law at the beginning of September with debate in the House of Commons. In the House, the Bill with all proposed amendments, was debated prior to the formal 1st reading in Lords on 8<sup>th</sup>.



Although all the amendments were rejected, by 188 to 318 votes and there was a sense of unease during the [debate](#) both Government and Opposition certainly appear aligned on the need and support the Bill. The Government really argued that accepting the amendments would

pre-empt the public [consultation](#), which is due to close on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and the ongoing work, like that involving competency, which was said to be proceeding as fast as possible.

Clearly there is real frustration that this whole process has taken far too long, which is a view shared by the Federation. The hope has to be that as the Bill moves forward into law any identified barriers to a rapid successful implementation can and will be quickly resolved.

In regard to implementation the development of a risk prioritisation tool by NFCC and the advice of the Home Office Task and Finish Group, in which FSF members are engaged, should help. Alongside this is the BSI competency framework, previously reported upon, with its imminent launch for public comment.

Not to be confused with the Fire Safety Bill, which is easily done, the Building Safety Bill also launched a period of review that closed on 14 September. Looking into this megalith of proposed law (339 Pages 5 Parts 119 clauses), which importantly will set out our future building control regime, we have made a submission to the Select Committee.

Suffice to say, as with any essentially enabling Bill, and particularly one that has an initial scope on a limited part of the built environment, it is difficult to register actual evidence. That said, voiced concerns, like those over the danger of starting a two tier regulatory system, missing inclusion of property protection against loss alongside life safety, failing to mandate third party assurance, driving harder for better guidance, competency and culture together with asking who has [oversight](#) of regulators and products, etc. have all been made in the [submission](#).

## BAFE FireQual Awarding Organisation



BAFE having announced the acquisition of the FIA AO by BAFE FireQual Ltd have appointed Nic Preston as the FireQual Qualifications Manager from 1<sup>st</sup> of this month. BAFE are now strongly placed to lead the fire sector in developing an extended range of accredited qualifications to meet the demand for quality assurance of individual skill and expertise required by the industry. [BAFE](#)

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## Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicles are set to become far more widespread and will be involved in more fires and traffic incidents a draft for public comment [PAS 7060](#) Electric Vehicles - Safe and environmentally conscious design and use of batteries, is now available.

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## Smoke Control Association

The SCA, who launched a UKAS approved certification scheme for SCA members and specialist smoke ventilation contractors who design, manufacture and install smoke control systems, are keen to share their experience with fellow associations and institutions with a CIBSE accredited CPD presentation on the certification scheme. A webinar is available for those interested that takes around 30 minutes although this could be tailored if needed. [SCA](#)

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## Fire Stopping of Service Penetrations Best Practice Guide

It's always good to see a collaborative approach putting some guidance into the market. This PAF is about taking services through walls with proper fire-stopping and is available on the FSF [website](#)

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## Brexit hasn't gone away!

The government has published its future requirements for [products](#) under the CPR when sold in the UK with general advice on using the [UKCA mark](#) was also published. Apparently additional to the CE-mark under a harmonised standard you will also need the UKCA mark as of January 2022 - 15 months to get everything ready!

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## SCOTLAND: EWS

At the end of March 2020 Scottish Ministers set up a Technical Working Group to develop a Scottish Advice Note to determine the fire risk posed by external wall systems in existing multi-storey residential buildings. The Note clarifies legislative requirements and guidance in Scotland and a draft is being used in targeted webinar consultations on 30th September and 20th October [Webinars](#)