



Federation Newsletter

Autumn 2020

Making sure your voice is heard

Number 25

EVENTS

- 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

<http://www.firesectorfederation.co.uk>

Dennis Davis

executive@firesectorfederation.co.uk

Alternate
firstfirecall@aol.com

FORUM 16 December 2020

The next virtual Forum is scheduled for Wednesday 16 December 2020. Commencing at 11:00 we are pleased to announce that on this occasion Graham Watts Chief Executive of the Construction Industry Council has agreed to address members at what is an important time in the sector. A full agenda with zoom invite will follow to all members

Fire Risk Assessor Approved Code of Practice

The implementation of the competency improvements for fire risk assessors moved a step forward again this week when the Federation released an ACOP for a national framework of fire risk assessor competency. The code has been produced by members of the Federation with others from the sector who participated in Work Group 4, one of the groups involved in the national effort to raise industry standards after the independent building safety review.



Combining work from 2011 when the Fire Risk Assessors Competency Council first developed competency criteria the new publication adds depth around expectations of behaviour, skills, knowledge and experience and prepares the ground for those who work on buildings that present the highest fire risk.

A companion publication Choosing a fire Risk Assessor was published last month and WG4 is about to review the Fire Risk Managers guide as well as starting the creation of a national fire risk assessors register. Contact [Office](#).

Fire Safety Order Amendment

The revised Order passed through the report stage in the House of Lords on 12 November and among the amendments was one from the Fire Minister Lord Greenhalgh aimed at providing the Secretary of State with the power to issue risk based guidance which if followed will provide proof of compliance for responsible persons.

This will allow those who may have large portfolios of buildings in scope, like housing associations, to assess their premises and better manage essential fire risk assessments and the subsequent work given there will be high demands and limited capacity. [FSO Update](#)

Social Housing Reform

A White Paper has been published that reflects in part the resident's concern in Grenfell Tower that prior to the fire they were unsafe and not listened to when they tried to raise concerns. A Charter for residents is now being proposed. [White Paper](#)



Architects Standards

MHCLG are seeking views on proposals to amend the Architects Act 1997 to promote and maintain standards of competence amongst architects registered in the UK in relation to building safety.

Based around the draft Building Safety Bill, the consultation also seek views on a new system for the recognition of international architecture qualifications and reflects the UK leaving the EU. There are two sections; building safety and recognition of international architects. The consultation ends on 22 January 2021 [Consultation](#)

What's in a Name

Dr Peter Wilkinson, Chair of FSH/9 Fire Terminology advises that FSH/9 is currently considering a review of BS 4422 Fire Vocabulary, and invites suggestions of fire terms for consideration and inclusion. Comments or questions relating to fire terms and definitions, and even participation in the drafting panel or as a committee liaison person are on offer. [Manager](#)

Scotland and Wales Consultations

Recent consultations by the devolved governments of Wales and Scotland have been responded to by the Federation. Scotland's focus was the fire risk posed by external wall systems while the Welsh issues related to the FRS becoming a statutory planning consultee. Generally the Federation supported the thrust of both proposals. Responses are in the member's section of our website.

Fire 2020

This recent virtual conference jointly organised by FPA, IFE and NFCC was a lively and interesting event that unfortunately suffered in part from the dreaded IT gremlins. Federation inputs from Jon O'Neil Tom Roche and Dennis Davis were all well received and further action to promote the issues they highlighted will be followed up. The diary date has already been set for 9 November 2021 and next time the hope is it will not be a virtual conference.

Member's Survey

A reminder to all to complete the member survey please. [Link](#)