



# Federation Newsletter

Winter 2020

*Making sure your voice is heard*

Number 26

## EVENTS

- INTERSCHUTZ  
14 to 19 June 2021  
Hannover.
- Emergency Services  
Show Fire safety  
Event  
7-9 September 2021  
NEC Birmingham

## Directors

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

## Links

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## HAPPY CHRISTMAS



After a very difficult year the Fire Sector Federation Executive Board sends its very best wishes to all members and their families for a HEALTHY and HAPPY CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Our first membership survey returned a strong vote of confidence in the Federation's work with over 90% of the 49 respondents agreeing that membership delivers value and 94% likely to renew their membership.

The survey was part of the ongoing communications strategy and designed to ensure that our work priorities continue in line with member expectations and to gauge any changing views.

The high response rate and very positive feedback underline the progress that has been made in the last two years. From the survey ratings, members clearly recognise and value the four key areas of Federation activity:

- Kept up to date on critical information and legislation - 85%
- Opportunity to influence submissions to government – 58%
- Networking events – 46%
- Access to knowledgebase – 44%

64% of respondents attend Forum events and 42% are directly involved in members work. We hope to see these statistics continue to grow as work groups move forward.

Basecamp is currently used by 42% of membership and comments suggest that more needs to be done to improve understanding of how to best use Basecamp and maximise member access to information.

The survey asked where improvements could be made and while many very positive comments reflected a view that the Federation is performing well for members, there is more to be done. The feedback suggests that this should include strengthening and clarifying relationships with member trade organisations to be the voice of the sector speaking for all, along with a wider focus across the supply chain, and continued effort to promote the Federation's work beyond the membership.

We will plan to take forward these areas in the New Year.

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## BSi Fire Risk Assessment Code of Practice

PAS 79-1:2020 Premises other than Housing and PAS 79-2:2020 Housing [BSi](#) have been released: each Code of Practice costs £125

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## WALES Sprinkler Rationalisation

The Welsh Government recently consulted upon rationalising the legislation controlling automatic fire suppression systems in care homes for children, which arose because of changes in devolution of Building Regulations. The FSF was supportive of what is in effect continuation of an approach that existed under the previous Measure notice in Wales regarding sprinklers [Link](#)

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## New Riser Third Party Certification

BAFE and BSI have announced that the first registration and Third Party Certification has been achieved for the new wet and dry riser service and maintenance scheme. The Scheme, [BAFE SP105 Service & Maintenance of Dry and Wet Riser/Falling Installations](#), offers evidence of competency for those organisations involved, who observe best practice, including working to BS 9990 (code of practice for non-automatic fire-fighting systems in buildings) and BS 5041 Parts 1 – 5 (Fire hydrant systems equipment).

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## Government Support for External Wall Surveys

On the 21 November 2020 those caught in the External Wall Survey scheme initiated to assist mortgage lenders and insurers free up property sales received help. Stating owners of flats in buildings without cladding will no longer need an EWS1 form to sell or re-mortgage their property the Government added that there was:

- Agreement that buildings without cladding were not subject to EWS1 from which nearly 450,000 homeowners were set to benefit
- Government funding was available to train more building assessors to speed up valuations, and
- Government was working with industry to ensure professional indemnity insurance is available for assessors

The Government, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), UK Finance and the Building Societies Association (BSA) discussed and have agreed nearly £700,000 would be available to train more assessors. Delivered by RICS with the Chartered Building Surveyors the hope is from January 2021 200 additional assessors will be qualified to carry out the EWS1 assessments within a month, 900 more within three months, and around 2000 within six months.

The announcement, which came as a surprise, resulted in FSF making comment to officials.

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