



Fire Sector
Federation

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Federation News

Next Forum Date

The next Forum meeting will be held on the 18th January, 14:00-17:00 as a virtual meeting.

The Board will present an outline strategy and plan to solidify the role of the Federation going forward and establish a sustainable business model.



We will also be joined by Matthew Armer, Head of Fire Risk Assessment Policy and Practice at the Home Office Fire Safety Unit. Matthew will give members an update on progress of the Fire Safety Reform Programme and future direction of travel. An agenda and papers will be issued along in due course. Calendar invites have been sent to all members.

BSR Strategy

The Building Safety Regulator has published its strategic plan to improve building safety standards. The plan outlines how the BSR will carry out its building safety functions in England for the first three years of operation up to March 2026.



The plan describes the work that the BSR has been established to deliver, how they will go about it and what they aim to achieve. It is designed to keep a focus on the priorities to deliver the new building safety regime and will be kept under continuous review. The plan is available

White Leads BSR

Ahead of the Building Safety Regulator becoming fully operational next year, the HSE has confirmed that Philip White will continue his role as Director of Building Safety on a permanent basis.



FRS Reform Paper

The Home Office has published its long awaited response to the consultation white paper, “Reforming Our Fire and rescue Service”. The



Home Office

original consultation paper was published in May 2022 to seek views on the Government’s ideas for reform, building on

lessons from independent inspection, concerning national reports and the Grenfell tower Inquiry.

The Fire Reform White Paper consulted centred around three main themes:

People – improving systems, flexibility and culture.

Professionalism – helping fire professionals to best serve their communities.

Governance – strengthening oversight and leadership.

The full report is available to read [here](#).

Seasons Greetings

We wish all our members a very merry Christmas and happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2024 at events and meetings as we continue to work for a safer society.



Lords Debate Fire Safety

On Wednesday 13th December Lord Goddard of Stockport led a two-hour debate in the House of Lords on “the current state of safety regulations in England and the case for a new integrated review to update fire safety guidance.



Automatic fire suppression systems featured prominently in a broad debate that covered a range of fire and building safety matters including sprinklers in schools, compartmentalisation, lithium batteries, e-scooters and bikes, building control and enforcement.

The full debate is available to watch [here](#) on BBC iPlayer and the full transcript from Hansard is available [here](#).

Technical Update

Our Technical Officer, Simon Gibbins, has been attending the Guidance Technical Group (GTG), who have started to review the comments received following the Home Offices six-week engagement concerning the revised draft of the fire safety in purpose-built blocks of flats guide. Following this engagement the Home Office received nearly 900 comments from a range of stakeholders, so this work is likely to be a focus for the coming weeks. Simon has also been involved in providing comments on proposed changes to the guide to making your small paying-guest -accommodation safe from fire.

Simon has attended the Fire Safety Reform Implementation Review Group (FSRIRG) which was set up to help central Government and the wider fire safety sector understand the impact of recent changes to fire safety legislation. Recent meetings have centred on the revision to the fire safety order and Sec 156 of Building Safety Act.

The Federation submitted a detailed response to the consultation on the new approach to the fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture following input from members.

Sector Events 2024

NFCC Spring Conference: 22-23 April

Fire Sprinkler International: 24-25 April

Fire Safety Event: 30 April - 2 May

Emergency Services Show: 18-19 December

FIREX: 2-4 December

ASFP Podcast

Federation Executive Director, Steve McGuirk, recently undertook a podcast with the Association for Specialist Fire Protection to talk about the work of the Federation and the importance of the Fire Chain in driving future fire safety strategy. It is available to watch [here](#)



For further information about the Fire sector Federation please contact executive@firesectorfederation.co.uk