



Federation Newsletter

Spring 2020

Number 17

EVENTS

- 6 May 2020
Federation AGM
Virtual Meeting
- 8-10 September
2020
FIREX at EXCEL
- Postponed
Building Regulation
and Fire Safety
Conference
- 22-24 September
2020
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

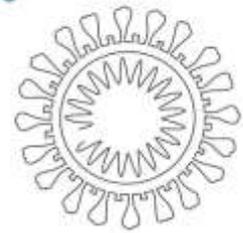
executive@firesectorfederation.co.uk

Alternate
firstfirecall@aol.com

Business Continuity in a National Emergency

The Queen's message of 'coming together to work as one, concentrating our combined efforts with a focus on the common goal' will be the FSF call in the evolving national emergency.

COVID-19



Federation members operate in all types of communities and to help, they, their staff and loved ones need to stay safe. Offering sincere thanks and support to everyone serving our communities on the front line we simply say 'take care of yourself and one another.'

Following suspension of business as usual the Board has put in place some steps to enable the Federation to continue functioning. There may be no personal travel for some months so all usual business activity will be tele-communicated or online where hopefully it will remain unaffected.

Using a video conferencing platform we intend to hold some meetings with the first system test set for Monday 23 March 2020 when FSF hosts the Competency Group for Fire Risk Assessors. We all know conferencing using telephones and video has limitations, meaning more organisation in advance, good discipline in use and improved audio tools but hopefully this will keep business going.

You are encouraged to use our web site to share information, given we can have no physical assemblies, and help keep information rolling using the Basecamp group discussions. We already now have project discussion space for MMC and PFPF and more can be set up if you have needs or ideas.

The Government's business timetables for the new FSO and FS Bills are still proceeding so further consultations are anticipated. Again let us maximise what tools we have available.

In terms of the next assembly it was to have been the AGM on 6 May 2020 in the House of Lords. The Board propose to conduct all formal business in a short online meeting with reports – 2019 Minutes, 2019-20 Annual Report, Audited Accounts and 2020-21 Budget – being prepared and published on the web site no later than 7 days in advance. Members will be requested to submit any questions for Directors by email 56 hours in advance of the AGM.

All current Directors have indicated they are prepared to stand for re-election. Other individuals may be candidates and if so they should advise the Executive before the 6 April 2020. Candidates are asked to indicate their preferred post and supply a short introduction (<500 word) for circulation.

Yet to be determined are the voting arrangements, which will probably require votes being submitted prior to the AGM by email; more will follow.

[Executive](#)

Fire Safety Bill

A [Fire Safety Bill](#) was introduced in the House of Commons on 19 March 2020. The Bill makes provision about the application of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 where a building contains two or more sets of domestic premises; and to confer power to amend that order in future for the purposes of changing the premises to which it applies.

This follows the Government's commitment made in the Queen's Speech to bring forward proposals to clarify that the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and its application to external walls (including cladding, balconies and windows) and individual flat entrance doors in multi-occupied residential buildings.

The Bill's [explanation](#) confirms Fire and Rescue Authorities and Local Authorities do have the relevant enforcement powers and supports possible secondary legislation to implement specific recommendations made in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase One Report.

The Home Office have also issued their [summary](#) of the Call for Evidence on the Fire Safety Order launched last July. 51 questions and 264 valid responses were received from 46 organisations including the Federation and a number of our members.

Areas identified as needing attention included;

- a. The self-identification of the Responsible Person and assurance of their competence to carry out their fire safety duties;
- b. The need to update current guidance and make it accessible;
- c. In multi-occupied residential buildings the Housing Act 2004 overlap;
- d. The effectiveness of enforcement; and
- e. The sharing of fire safety information

Members wishing to offer any comment on these announcements please contact the Executive or the Passive and Active Protection Directors.

National Competency Standards



BSI, hosted an invitation only event at the Physicians Hall in London on 9 March 2020 when a programme entitled "Developing National Standards for Competence in the Built Environment" was outlined.

There are effectively two parts to this process and the full day was allocated to considering both parts. In the morning members of the Competency Steering Group and other joined in a productive workshop to build detail and consensus on a Benchmark Competence Framework Standard with associated common Terminology.

The afternoon focused on the BSI project planning to develop quickly a suite of new documents, creating a new technical work stream. The aim is to support government building safety policy and respond to industry and consumer needs. Participation in this work will be continued within the Federation's Competency Group where you will find further detail.

