



Fire Sector Federation

# Federation News

## Record Attendance at FIRE Conference

This year's FIRE Conference, organised by a unique partnership of the Federation, FPA, IFE and NFCC, reached a new record for attendance with 527 delegates joining in person and online - an increase of almost 10% on the previous year.

Federation Chair, John Spencer opened the conference with a heartfelt tribute to Jonathan O'Neill, who passed away earlier this year.

Directors Steve Hamm and Dennis Davis were involved in sessions explaining the challenges around competency for Fire Risk Assessors in the wake of the Building Safety Act.

Executive Director, Steve McGuirk presented a session outlining the progress made in developing a national strategic approach to fire safety and the work to define the Fire Chain.



Planning for year's event in London is already underway with a date to be announced soon.

## Busy Forum

Last month's Forum meeting in London provided an opportunity for members to hear about the Board's plans to develop a business model that will place Federation on a sustainable sound footing for the future.

The Board has submitted a business case for short term funding over two years to the Fire Research and Training Trust (FRTT). This would boost the existing revenue stream and pump prime the resources needed to move the Federation to the desired operating model.

The Board is also looking at how to reconstitute our governance, possibly in some form of charitable status, reasserting the Federation's work is for the public good. There was extensive discussion around the potential reforms and the role of the Federation in driving the national strategic approach. Members will be updated as work progresses and the notes of the Forum discussion are available on Basecamp.

Updates were also provided from Gavin Tomlinson, NFCC on enforcement and Dennis Davis on Competence.

## Support for Fire Chain

The substantial work undertaken by Executive Director, Steve McGuirk to develop the FIRE Chain has received strong support across the sector. The latest issue of FIRE Magazine endorsed the work describing it as an initiative that "for the first time articulates the breadth and scale of the fire sector...From policy to

through to design, approvals, construction, occupation, occurrence of fire investigation, and finally, recovery and rebuild, the chain is colossal in scope yet simple in articulating the impact of overlapping regulatory frameworks".

The full article is available to members in Basecamp.



# Scotland Publishes Cladding Remediation Bill

The Scottish Government has published legislation giving Scottish Ministers the power to assess and remediate buildings within scope with unsafe cladding where consent of the owners cannot be provided.

Under proposals in the Housing (Cladding Remediation) Bill, they will also create and maintain a Cladding Assurance register to give residents confidence about the assessment and works undertaken once those works are remediated.

## Smarter Regulation

The Department of Business and Trade's Smarter regulation programme has issued a call for evidence asking for stakeholders to give their views on independent regulators and how well the UK regulatory landscape is functioning.

The programme aims to minimise regulatory burden and ensure our regulations are contemporary and forward looking, making use of alternatives to regulation where beneficial and ensuring a well-functioning regulatory landscape.

The closing date for feedback is 7<sup>th</sup> January and response forms are available [here](#).



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

The Bill will also give Ministers the power to establish a Responsible Developers Scheme, to support engagement with developers and encourage them to pay or carry out remediation work. Such a scheme would likely include agreement to pay for remediation costs. More information is available from the Scottish Government [website](#).

## BSR Webinars

The Building Safety Regulator and partners are hosting a series of webinars designed to educate and inform stakeholders and duty holders involved in the wider built environment.

The webinars cover a number of different topics including regulation of the profession, registered building inspectors; building assessment certification; the fundamentals of the Building Safety Act.

More details are available from the HSE [website](#).



## Higher Risk Buildings

The Department for Levelling Up, housing and Communities has published a number of guidance documents relating to the legal criteria for determining whether a building is considered a higher-risk building under the Building Safety Act 2022.

The guidance relates to the definition of higher risk buildings during design and construction, building work on existing higher-risk buildings and the occupational phase of the higher-risk regime. More information is available on the DLUHC [website](#)

For further information about the Fire sector Federation please contact [executive@firesectorfederation.co.uk](mailto:executive@firesectorfederation.co.uk)

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