



Message from Mark Hardingham



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council Protection & Business Safety Committee

September 2017

Colleagues,

I re-read my first newsletter before writing this one after the NFCC Protection and Business Safety meeting in Birmingham on the 13 September. The last one was in late May and the obvious reflection being how much the world of FRS, and especially Protection, has changed in the ensuing 4 months. It's also right that I take the opportunity to place on record my thanks for the fantastic support from Protection colleagues across the UK FRS and also from the small team at NFCC. Our challenge is now to maintain the work of the last 3 months through the rest of this year and beyond.

I hope you find the information in the briefing useful and if you have any questions please just contact me or someone in your regional or devolved assembly Protection group. As before, the purpose of my writing is to just summarise the discussions at the last NFCC P&BS meeting, at the same time as the formal minutes are also made available. Turning to the meeting itself, we had a comprehensive agenda and I've picked out some of the key discussions.

Grenfell Tower Fire



As you would expect, much of the discussion centred on the Protection implications of the Grenfell fire...I'll pick out just a few.

We considered the new interim guidance and consolidated guidance letters from DCLG and the supporting guidance from NFCC on Waking Watch and Common Fire Alarms. Many of you will soon have this new information when it's released through the regular SITREPs.

New data requests are being developed to ensure we have the most up to date and accurate information that provides the public, NFCC and Government with assurance about our management and leadership of the developing picture.

...and finally, we re-emphasised the peer support that NFCC can offer FRS who encounter difficult situations, through either regional or national NFCC support. This has already been used to good effect on many occasions, whether over the phone or through face to face support in Service.

NFCC P&BS Business Plan

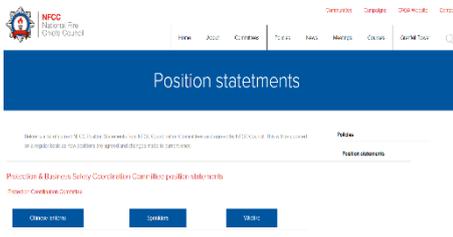
After a couple of meetings we now have the basis of a business plan for the Committee through to April 2019.

The plan has 6 main areas:



1. Responding to the Grenfell Tower fire – supporting a co-ordinated national approach; informing and learning from the public inquiry and the review of building regulations
2. Embedding and reviewing the Specialised Housing guide
3. Leading the work to reduce AFA and UWFS
4. Working on Fire Engineering and Technical Standards – focus initially on compartmentation and AWSS
5. Support and develop the Competency Framework and apprenticeships for Protection staff
6. Fire investigation and product recalls
7. Provide additional support and guidance to businesses and continue to improve regulation and enforcement.

Developing NFCC Position Statements



Many of you will have seen the NFCC letters that set out our thoughts on the areas to be included in the Grenfell public inquiry and review of Building Regulations. The next step has been to develop clear and informed position statements to support our views – albeit this is being done in an unusually compressed timescale.

Positions are being developed against about 8 areas ranging from Automatic Water Suppression Systems and Sprinklers to Building Control and Approved Inspectors and the conflict between the Housing Act and the RR(FS)O. The positions are being developed by FRS across the region and devolved assemblies, and will be used to properly inform the ‘call to evidence’ in the Building Regulations review that closes on the 13 October. The statements will consider the objective, background, current situation, approach elsewhere, case studies etc; all being used to inform the NFCC position which will be clearly set out, and ideally summarised in less than 140 characters!

Prevention, Protection and Health Conference 5 & 6 October

Hollie Tell has done a great job organising this year’s conference which is being advertised through the NFCC site. I’m looking forward to colleagues from Protection & Business Safety discussing Specialised Housing, Unwanted Fire Signals, Automatic Water Suppression Systems and the Protection and Prevention impacts of Grenfell. I look forward to seeing some of you there.



And the Rest...

At the meeting, we also discussed the provision of new NFCC guidance to support large Events Safety Management; new guidance on Mobility Scooters, an issue that has caused more than its fair share of debate; how Protection is being used through the National Operational Learning programme; and how we ensure that the NFCC Protection and Business Safety voice is heard in the development of the methodology to support HMICFRS on the Protection elements of future inspection.

Attending P&BS Meetings in your Regions and Areas



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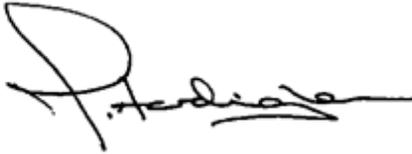
As Chair, I'm committed to maintaining and drawing from the excellent work that takes place in the regional and devolved assembly groups, and it's for this reason that I'll be maintaining and encouraging the attendance of the Chairs at the main P&BS meetings, alongside themed work leads.

If you'd like me to attend your regional meeting and discuss the work that is being managed nationally, then I'll endeavour to do my best to do so and feel free to contact me to discuss dates.

In closing, I hope you find this briefing useful and further detail is available through the minutes of the meeting once they are published on the NFCC website.

The next meeting is 13 December.

Best Regards



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