Over the summer period the NFSN Executive have “met” on Microsoft teams to hold the Exec meetings, these meetings have very been beneficial in maintaining momentum for progressing the work to refresh the sprinkler data that we have now obtained from Home Office and to enable Ronnie King to keep us all current in his extensive involvement with the All Party Group.

I have attached the minutes of the last meeting for your information and have included Ronnie’s latest APPG update below. (not for wider circulation).

Last month we saw two requests for public consultation on fire safety matters from Government. These welcome consultations are in regard to the revised Fire Safety Bill and the Building Safety Bill and they provide us with an opportunity to contribute to the discussion and decsions for the future of fire safety in buildings. These opportunities to improve legislation do not happen frequently, we need to make sure that we have our NFSN voice heard in these matters. It is particualry important at the moment as the priority for fire safety may be overshadowed by other events such as the pandemic and the undoubted financial challenges that will emgerge as a result of CV19.

**We need your help.**

I am appealing to the NFSN membership to gather your extensive knowledge and experience so that we may provide a reasoned and well evidenced response to the consultation in regard to sprinklers.

At the executive meeting we discussed that the consultation on the Fire Safety Bill (ie enforcement) is not really going to impact on the sprinkler sector, whereas the Building Safety Bill will be far more relavent.

In the first instance the NFSN would seek to mirror the NFCC sprinkler position statement in regard to the types of buildings that would benefit from sprinklers. This is a good start, but I am sure that the NFSN network could add more to this debate given the collective experience of the group.

One area that may not feature in the bill as an example would be the requirement to retro fit buildings when extensive refurbishment is scheduled. This could be an area that the NFSN may wish to raise.

Other areas may be the importance of building protection as opposed to just life safety in schools for example and the vulnerability of occupants in say sheltered accomodation.

***So, we need your help. If you or others in your organisation are tasked with responding to the consultations, could you please forward your drafts to the NFSN Secretary so that when the NFSN responds, we have the broadest possible overview of the network available to us.***

**NFSN Executive Update**

**Finance**

This year we seem to have had a very poor response in regard to payment of subscriptions, if you have received an invoice can you please chase it up. Reminder letters are being sent out in the next week to chase up, but a two pronged attack will likely be needed to ensure 100% returns.

This is a priority as currently we are carrying a shortfall of over £11000, which will be a significant problem when we come to having the sprinkler data independently reviewed.

**APPG update**

Please see attached. The Executive recorded their thanks to Ronnie King who throughout the ‘lockdown” has been continulally working remotely to service the APG and maintain the NFSN message in regard to the revisions to BB100 for schools and all other matters.

**Data**

The NFSN Secretary and Tom Roche have been working with the four versions of data that Home Office have produced to refresh the Reliabilty and Effectivness Report.

During this work a methodology has emerged for reviewing the data. The methodology is to be tested using schools as a pilot by Derbyshire FRS data team and if proven the method will be used across all building types.

Briefly, the method will only focus on building fires were sprinklers are recorded as present in the “room of origin” and where their was “fire damage” recorded.

This will narrow the data to those incidents where you would expect a sprinkler to operate if present. In the past, the data has been clouded by records where sprinklers were present in the building but not always in the room of origin. Also, it is reasonable to exclude those incidents where zero fore damage has occurred, because obviously if there is no fire, your sprinklers are ot designed to operate.

Early use of the method is seeing high ninties percentiles for effectiveness and reliability.

**Bernadette Hartley Award Reminder**

The closing date for the award is September 1st. Template Attached.

**NFSN Website**

Through August I will be attempting (with my lack of IT skills) to update the NFSN website.

If you have anything you would like to see on the website please let me know. I will see what I can do.

**Links to incidents and items of note:**

Greater Manchester Fire an Rescue Servcie have released a report into the response to the fire at the Cube Building in Bolton. Whilst not a sprinklered building the report is an interstig read, raising some issues on firefighter access and building construction that will no doubt impact on your thoughts around consultation for the Building Safety Bill.

[GMFRS](https://www.manchesterfire.gov.uk/staying-safe/what-we-do/high-rise-taskforce/cube/)

**Consultation links**

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-building-safety-bill**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-building-safety-bill)

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fire-safety**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fire-safety)

**NEXT MEETING**

The next NFSN meeting is due on **13th October.**

Given the the uncertainty of lockdowns, local and national the exec have decided to run a full NFSN Members meeting on the 13th October.

This will provide an opprtuntiy for the normal exec updates, your lvery helpful local updates and potentially a guest speaker or two.

If any of you have a presentation you would like to share at this meeting please let me know.

Best wishes for what remains of the summer, take care of yourselves.

**Terry McDermott**

**NFSN Secretary**

**APPG Update**

**NOT FOR WIDER CIRCULATION.**

**ALL- PARTY PARLIAMENTARY FIRE SAFETY & RESCUE GROUP**

**A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated**

**Chairman: Sir David Amess MP**

**Co Vice Chairs: Mary Glindon MP – Lord Porter of Spalding – Baroness Brinton**

**Margaret Ferrier MP - Rt. Hon. Sir George Howarth MP – Felicity Buchan MP**

**Andy Slaughter MP - Robbie Moore MP**

**Secretary: Rt. Hon. Sir Mike Penning MP Treasurer: Peter Aldous MP**

**Adviser & Hon Administrative Secretary: Ronnie King OBE, O.St.J, QFSM, F.I.Fire E**

**Secretariat Office: 1 Astral House, Regency Place, Westminster, LONDON SW1P 2EA**

**Telephone: Mobile: 07836 266614**

**UPDATE FOR NFSN EXEC - APPG FIRE SAFETY & RESCUE - 31 JULY 2020**

**FROM RONNIE KING – ADVISER & HON. ADMIN. SEC.**

**31 July 2020**

**In the last two months (June and July), Following the update on 31st May 2020, the Group has added another new member to its list:**

**Bob Blackman MP conservative – Harrow East – who is also a member of the Housing, communities & Local Government Select Committee.**

**On the 1st June a discussion/exchange of correspondence took place between APPGroup Adviser and Robert Jervis-Gibbons, Electrical Safety First re Whirlpool recalls. 2nd June The Group’s Adviser participated in a NFSN “virtual” Exec meeting. On the 3rd June liaison ZOOM meetings held with Peter Aldous MP and Zurich Insurance re Suffolk policy on SEN schools.**

**Adviser Consultation with Chris Leese, Helen Hewitt, Jane Duncan and Adrian Dobson over the final APPG minutes from 19th May APPG . Also discussion with Sir David Amess MP the correspondence with Malcolm Sarstedt and Blane Judd (IET) and offered to meet them re Building Safety Bill. (meeting being arranged)**

**Group Adviser held another ‘virtual meeting on 4th June with Hannah Brack on LPS system Blocks and with Murray Stewart re Structural Timber Association ‘follow up’.**

**On 3rd June corresponded with Ali Ayub Zaheer DfE re BB100 Stakeholder Group – re no meeting since Nov 2019. Shared this with the APPG.**

**Also held a discussion and email exchange with Matthew Canham NFCC Building Safety Team – re Watford conversion of commercial building to residential use.**

**Liaison ‘virtual’ meeting with Jonathan Gullis MP re Q-Railing Balconies and glazing. Group Adviser DRAFTED letter from APPG to Robert Jenrick MP re failure to respond to earlier letter and sought a response. On 9th June on behalf of Sir David Amess MP – held a ‘ZOOM’ meeting with Fire Risk Assessor Gavin W Jones and Martin Boyd (Leaseholder Group) re using a ‘risk assessed basis’ for the allocation of the £1 billion cladding removal bid. (Gavin W Jones has since been asked to join a Home Office Task Force)**

**On 10th June ‘ZOOM’ meeting held with Q Railing balconies and Mike Wood and Jonathan Gullis MP and team. Adviser also confirmed another APPG ‘virtual’ meeting for the 24th June and confirmed Jim Glockling to speak on “A critical appraisal of the UK’s regulatory regime for combustible façades - the BS 8414 test”.**

**Following failure to persuade DfE Officials to recall the BB100 Stakeholder Group, it was agreed with Sir David Amess MP for a letter to go from APPG to Sec. of State DfE Gavin Williamson re BB100; and for it to include all the exchanges of emails between myself and the DfE secretary.**

**Adviser consulted with Mark Norris LGA re Whirlpool recall, and sought his assistance via the LGA to notify local councils and Fire & Rescue Authorities of the extent of these unregistered appliances, with less than 40% located.**

**Adviser prepared the agenda and papers for the APPG meeting on 24th June and invited Mick Platt Professional Freeholder to be a second speaker as this issue was becoming urgent as the Government had decided to scrap ‘ground rents’.**

**Spoke with Minister Maggie Throup MP re a large loss school fire and a block of upmarket flats fire in her Derbyshire constituency with major fire loss in both cases. She was supportive of sprinklers in schools and would ensure the rebuilt school in Long Eaton would be sprinkler protected. However as a Minister she would do her best to work behind the scenes to improve fire safety, having seen the damage at first hand in her own area.**

**Further correspondence and telephone calls took place with Ali Ayub Zaheer DfE re BB100, but the message wasn’t changed and the BB100 stakeholder Group wasn’t recalled. It remained that it would be called when the DRAFT revision of BB100 had been completed and ready to go out simultaneously to the public. Adviser then received an email from Sally Wiseman offering her sincere apologies for the note of the November meeting not being circulated, which was subsequently attached.**

**She said this was an oversight and the note should have been issued immediately after the meeting.**

**Unfortunately Adviser had to tell her that this had also occurred after the June 2019 meeting and he had then also written asking for notes from that meeting two months afterwards. This effectively meant that eight stakeholders who missed the November 2019 BB100 stakeholder group meeting, hadn’t received any information or proposed thinking for a WHOLE YEAR!!!**

**APPG Adviser further liaised with Andy Slaughter MP re LGA involvement with Whirlpool.**

**Also undertook another June ZOOM Meeting with Jonathan Gullis MP and office Manager Shameem Richardson. Re balconies and glazing.**

**On 12th June APPG Adviser DRAFTED a letter for Sir David Amess to long standing APPG member Lord Brookman re his retirement and the possibility of a presentation.**

**On 14th June ZOOM Adviser spoke with Damian Jensen re six floor block flats below 18 mtrs. And outlined the content of the Letter sent to MHCLG.**

**Adviser liaised with FSF Chairman Michael Harper to attend the July meeting of APPG, which was confirmed and now on the agenda, and prepared a DRAFT letter wording for Jonathan Gullis MP’s intervention at the 24th June APPG meeting.**

**Discussion held with T McDermott NFSN Secretary, the next phase of Optimal Research and the September meetings planned. Also discussed with Kim Johnson MP re current fire issues - New member.**

**Discussion with Joe Murphy – MHCLG Building Remediation Team re sprinkler height threshold interpretation to feed back to enquiries of Sir David Amess MP.**

**Corresponded and held a 90 minutes ‘ZOOM’ meeting with Paul Sincaglia the newly appointed MD of the International Fire Sprinkler Association based in Ohio. Positive outcome for NFSN funding this year, but NFSN needed to be supported by the UK’s own sprinkler companies from 2021.**

**Adviser DRAFTED a standard response for Sir David Amess to send to Ruby Douglas and many others, regarding the outstanding removal of dangerous cladding from buildings.**

**On the 19th June Adviser held a 2 hrs ZOOM meeting with Paul Bussey RIBA Expert Group and Sam Webb about their interpretation of ADB as a route to compliance with the Building Regulations, given Sir Martin Moore Bick’s statement under Phase one of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. “If it didn’t comply, how have hundreds more buildings got this on? Were they all wrong too, or was there something wrong with the guidance to the regulations which the secretary of State says ‘is a route to compliance.?”**

**And if there wasn’t anything wrong with the Regulations or ADB, why then was class “0” removed last year from the new guidance??**

**On the 17th June APPG adviser held a ‘ZOOM’ call with Caroline Tucker – a Burns Victim from Swansea, who will feature in a Graphic story lesson being produced by Dr Shane Ewen of Leeds Beckett University. This will be part of a teaching package.**

**“Caroline's story is one of half a dozen graphic novel stories that has been commissioned from a freelance artist, Sarah Silverwood-Taylor, with an additional three stories about the Bradford City stadium fire produced by Year 9 school-children at a secondary school in Bradford. They can be used collectively or individually in classroom activities. The stories have subsequently been turned into a complete teaching pack - with lesson plans aimed at Key Stage 2 (predominantly working with 10-11 year olds) and Key Stage 3 (14-15) students, by a freelance teacher, Rachel Wood, formerly of Saltaire Stories (an archive based in Saltaire). This includes such tasks for students, depending on the age, as diary entries, newspaper reports, and identifying practical lessons from the stories.**

**The idea behind the pack is interdisciplinary as the activities cover social history, English literature (it helps with literacy and visual forms of story-telling) and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education).**

**They have used individual stories to encourage students to discuss matters such as empathy (towards burns survivors predominantly) and to identify their 'unsung heroes' who help in emergencies (extending from fire fighters to bystanders). We then ask students to make a pledge to change some aspect of their behaviour, e.g. to check their smoke alarms when they get home, to identify an escape plan, to learn more about their school's fire evacuation plan, etc.**

**With Caroline's story, which hasn't been used yet, they would like to focus on KS3 students who can cope better with the material. They can then broaden the discussion to incorporate the Grenfell Tower fire and discuss the value of sprinklers and other life-saving appliances/ firefighter training, in order to connect with the PSHE curriculum more strongly.**

**In terms of how long a session takes, it generally comes down to the teacher (and would more so now given schools are unlikely to invite outsiders into the classroom during the pandemic). We have delivered 1 hr to 90 minute workshops.**

**The normal running order for the workshops would be - ice breaker, introductions, story-reading, responding to the questions / activities, followed by feedback. They are probably best delivered by two members of the team, and can include the teacher as well.**

**At the workshops we are often accompanied by a make-up artist, Julia Hyland, who can give the pupils - if they're comfortable with it - a small burn scar on their hand, which they then use to initiate a discussion about scarring and disfigurement (through 'hot seating' where pupils ask questions of the 'survivor')**

**Of course, it could take up less time as part of a PSHE class, or form one activity in a wider set of tasks that a teacher already has. Sprinklers feature very much in this teaching.**

**17th June APPG Adviser spoke with Lord Hendy re an article for a possible presentation to the July APPG. This was discussed at the APPG ‘virtual’ meeting held on 24th June attended by 13 MP’s and Peers. – two speakers and full agenda – It was a constructive meeting. Dr Jim Glockling’s presentation and slides were well received and requested by Bob Blackman MP to be sent as evidence to the MHCLG Select Committee.**

**The members also supported action being taken to reinstate DfE’s BB100 stakeholder Group meetings immediately.**

**At the APPG meeting on 24th June, It was agreed to invite to the July APPG meeting - Stuart Hodkinson: Associate Professor of Critical Urban Geography (Leeds University) and Phil Murphy: Independent Consultant advising landlords and responsible persons in relation to fire safety management of tall residential buildings (Manchester Sustainable Communities). They were subsequently invited to speak at the July APPG meeting on “Grenfell, Three Years On: a preventable Disaster that Could Still Happen Again”**

**(A copy of the presentation is attached to this update)**

**The adviser subsequently consulted with both and they accepted the invitation for what was anticipated to be a ‘robust discussion’**

**Since the June APPG meeting the Group’s Adviser Corresponded on Leasehold policy with Lakhbir Hans MHCLG Leasehold Policy Lead, re the APPG resolution at 24th June meeting and a response was** **awaited.**

**The APPG Adviser since engaged in several further lengthy email exchanges with DfE following Sec. of State’s response letter. And copied all correspondence to APPG members.**

**Adviser also corresponded with Stakeholders including Andy Dark at the FBU re Schools BB100, who has kindly sent a copy of a supportive FBU Press Release. The adviser also received a number of other encouraging and supportive responses with an article in DRAFT prepared to go into FIRE PROTECTION magazine and to the Press if no change of position on BB100 by DfE.**

**During the month of July 2020 the APPG adviser consulted with APPG members re arranging date/time for July APPG ‘ZOOM’ meeting, which was subsequently agreed for midday on 21st July 2020.**

**On 3rd July APPG Adviser Further exchanged emails with DfE re BB100 schools.**

**On 6th July the adviser attended the FSF Forum meeting on behalf of NFSN, and on 7th July held a “Zoom” meeting with James Olney and Victoria Mcnish re Eaton Electrical Safety on behalf of Sir David Amess MP. On the same day notice was sent to the Parliament Diary Office for formally recording the APPG meeting on 21st July.**

**On the 7th July adviser had a Telephone discussion with Tom Roche re BB100 strategy. Followed by a Telephone Discussion with William Roszczyk FPA re article on BB100. On the 8th July adviser held a Zoom meeting with Alan Brinson re IFSA ongoing Grant.**

**He also Prepared a further draft letter for Sir David Amess to Sec.of State for Education re BB100.**

**On 9th July Adviser held a “ZOOM” meeting with RIBA Architect and Expert Group member Paul Bussey re timber framed buildings and sprinklers plus his attending and speaking att the next APPG meeting; and with Martin Boyd – APPG Leaseholder Group re Lord Greenhalgh attending next APPG meeting.**

**On 9th July Adviser held furtherTelephone conversation with Tom Roche re his proposed draft response to Sally Wiseman DfE.. Following this discussion the Adviser Sent final response to Sally Wiseman re BB100 Stakeholder Group and received a response. (This had appeared to be a reassuring and positive step on the likely DRAFT revised BB100, which needed trust on the NFSN side and a promise of positive outcome from the DfE side).**

**On 11th July, adviser held a Zoom meeting with Margaret Ferrier, Helen Hewitt CEO Structural Timber Assn. and Murray Stewart STA. And on 14th July held another “Zoom” meeting with Mike Wood, Darryl Holloway and Jonathan Gullis MP re Glazing on balconies relating to the recent review of the extension of the ban on combustible materials on the external walls of buildings.**

**Adviser also Drafted a letter to Minister Lord Greenhalgh from Jonathan Gullis MP. Adviser also exchanged correspondence with Dr Shane Ewen Leeds Uni. Re Caroline Tucker Educational Teaching script (Burns Victim), and attended a meeting in Leeds taking personal scrapbook possessions from Burns Victim Caroline Tucker.**

**16th July adviser held Liaison email exchange with Louise Hall re IFSA Invoice for Grant.**

**On 17/18 July adviser prepared agenda and papers for APPG meeting on 21 July and calling notices/zoom log-in. Further exchange of emails took place with Sally Wiseman DfE and circulated to colleagues and APPG.**

**Adviser arranged slide presentation for APPG meeting for Stuart Hodkinson and Phil Murphy, plus Briefing for Sir David Amess.**

**On 17/18 July Exchange of correspondence with Sam Webb RIBA re replacement spandrel panels at Marie Curie House and Lakanal House. Adviser also Read and digested the script from the session of phase 2 of the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry. Adviser exchanged correspondence with Jon O’Neill re BB100 Stakeholder Group, and exchanged correspondence with Sir Ken Knight re APPG meeting and access.**

**Adviser exchanged email correspondence and brief for Michael Harper presentation to APPG together with further correspondence and BRIEF with Lord Greenhalgh ahead of APPG meeting.**

**Adviser exchanged further correspondence and update with Ian Moverley on Whirlpool washing machine recall, and shared with Sir David Amess MP.**

**Adviser request to LGA for update on assistance from LGA and Fire Authorities re Whirlpool washing machines. (Lord Porter/Mark Norris).**

**Adviser exchanged further correspondence with Lakhbir.Hans re Government decision to abolish Ground Rents, to report to 21st July APPG meeting.**

**Further correspondence with Dr Shane Ewan and Caroline Tucker. Re Education Tool for Burns awareness, and further meeting arranged to finalise this sensitive exposure of a ‘burns victim’ albeit with an intention of saving lives.**

**On 20th July Adviser notified APPG of the publication of the Building Safety Bill, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government are introducing the biggest change in building safety in a generation. The draft Building Safety Bill takes forward the Government's fundamental reform of the building safety system, introducing new regulatory regimes for building safety and construction products.**

**He also notified APPG members of the Government’s announcement and the launch of the Fire Safety Consultation, which builds on the Fire Safety Bill currently progressing through Parliament and is another important and necessary step towards delivering the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report recommendations.**

**It also announced the launch of the Fire Safety Consultation, which builds on the Fire Safety Bill currently progressing through Parliament and is another important and necessary step towards delivering the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report recommendations.**

**The Fire Safety Consultation includes proposals to: strengthen the Fire Safety Order and improve compliance; implement the Inquiry's recommendations that require a change in law; and improve arrangements for consultation between building control bodies and fire and rescue authorities in relation to building work, and arrangements for the handover of fire safety information. This is alongside an existing commitment to overhaul supporting guidance for the Order.**

**The Fire Safety Consultation [1] is now live and will be open for a period of 12 weeks, closing on 12 October 2020.**

**The APPG Adviser Participated in 2hrs Leasholder/Commonhold Reform APPG meeting on 21st July followed by one and a half hrs APPG meeting, which was attended by Lord Greenhalgh. Adviser held a Pre-meeting slide presentation rehearsal with Stuart Hodkinson and Phil Murphy re Grenfell – ‘stay-put’ policy. Adviser Followed up emails to Bob Blackman MP, to speakers and to Lord Greenhalgh.**

**Adviser also viewed Grenfell Public Inquiry Studio E, Harley, the BCO and Artelia, Rydon, Exova. 24th July ‘virtual’ meeting with Eaton - Briefing on Building Safety Bill.**

**Copies of Grenfell presentation sent by adviser to all 34 APPG members.**

**28 July – Adviser held further Meeting in Leeds with Dr Shane Ewen about how the graphic novel story will be used in the classroom/teaching situation, and discussion on fire safety matters with Mary Glindon MP.**

**Discussion held on 28th July with Paul Bussey RIBA re presentation to next APPG meeting in September. On 28th July adviser held ‘virtual’ meeting with Rylah - Institution of Engineering and Technology’s (IET) Engineering Safety, and Built Environment Policy Panels. Adviser produced a briefing paper for Nigel Chantler RSA for potential funding to NFSN.**

**Adviser Liaised with Sam Webb and Keith MacGillivray re The Dalmarnock fire tests and on 29th July adviser sent Lengthy email with attachments to Lord Greenhalgh re construct products and APPG involvement with Government consultations generally. Adviser exchanged Correspondence with Andy Slaughter re APPG matters on ‘stay-put’ policy. Adviser had discussion with Sir Ken Knight re NFCC Roy Wilsher attending next APPG meeting re ‘stay-put’ policy. Adviser produced correspondence DRAFT for Sir David Amess MP to send to Professional Freeholder, Mick Platt with Group’s decision on Professional Freeholders.**

**Adviser spoke with and agreed content with Mary Wedgwood FBU over APPG meeting minutes and with Lou Hall FPA re invoicing and accounts. 30th July adviser attended NFSN Executive ‘virtual’ meeting – and on 31 July adviser participated in RIBA ‘Stay-Put Policy’ virtual meeting 2hrs. Consideration and action over Lord Porter’s letter to Sir David Amess re ‘stay-put’ policy and LGA implications.**

**It has been another busy two months and APPG business has not been exclusively sprinkler orientated, it has featured significantly at the heart of many of the APPG’s discussions, and commitment is significant.**

**Ronnie King OBE, O.St.J, QFSM, F.I.Fire E**

**Adviser/Hon. Admin. Sec.**

**NOT for wider circulation**