



## R King Update on his involvement with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (Fire Safety & Rescue) as Fire Adviser and Hon. Secretary.

### January 2024

1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 APPG Adviser/Hon.Sec. received a US Research paper from Simon Ince (UL) in relation to Lithium-Ion Battery fires. Shared with APPG colleagues plus LFB and Department for Business and Trade, APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. notified of the death of former HM Inspector of Fire Services Don Kent. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan circulated correspondence with APPG members from [Business and Trade Minister Kevin Hollinrake](#) re major ordering and delivery food platforms regarding Lithium-Ion batteries. ([letter will shortly be available on the NFSN website](#)) 4<sup>th</sup> Jan APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec Exchanged correspondence with former [UL Official from USA Chris Hasbrook](#), who is now chairing an Advisory Council at the [University of Chicago](#). A contact in Home Office might be helpful or mutually beneficial. 5<sup>th</sup> Jan News article received from T McDermott re [School closure following Fire in Dean Trust School Manchester](#). [Circulated to APPG](#). Liaised with [Lord Goddard](#) re sponsorship of a [Fire Aid lunch](#) to be held in the House of Lords, possibly March 2024.

9<sup>th</sup> January Received correspondence from [former MP Jim Fitzpatrick](#) with a view to an [APPG meeting with FireQual](#). Circulated APPG members for a 23<sup>rd</sup> January date in Portcullis House. Date agreed and refreshments booked. APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. exchanged correspondence with Alan Draper re a new Design Guide for Blocks of Purpose Built Flats. Clarified certain matters about the status and role of APPG's. APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. corresponded with Vitalii Borovko (Ukraine Embassy) re the next meeting with Home Office Minister the Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP, and an update [ON THE NEW UKRAINE AMBASSADOR to the UK](#).

10<sup>th</sup> January Corresponded with [Sandra Blemster \(BAFSA\)](#) re [contact details for Dame Judith Hackitt](#). 11<sup>th</sup> January Notified individually, all APPG members of the meeting with FireQual for the 23<sup>rd</sup> January. 12<sup>th</sup> January Lord Goddard reached agreement on a date for the FIRE AID fundraising Lunch – for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024. 15<sup>th</sup> January – APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec wrote to APPG Members re invitations to [BAFSA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024](#). 16<sup>th</sup> January wrote to PS Chris Philp re a meeting with the APPG, to include a number of issues as well as include an online link to UKRAINE. 16<sup>th</sup> January APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec received confirmation from [Lord Stunell \(former Minister\)](#) of his attendance at the [FireQual meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024](#). 17<sup>th</sup> January APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec attended [Lords Members Open Day – Houses of Parliament](#). Exchanged further correspondence with [Kate Lamble BBC Newsnight re Grenfell Tower report](#). Report of a School fire in Hove: Sussex. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/24058928.blatchington-mill-school-hove-remain-closed-fire/>; Reported to APPG members and colleagues. One student commented: “Now hearing about the fire breaking out exactly five years on brings some trauma back”.

[“I feel bad for the current students and staff as memories in the building will be lost and they will have to amend the damage caused.”](#)

[Most pupils had left for the day when the fire broke out at 5.40pm, but staff were still in the building and some pupils had to be evacuated from after school clubs, including cricket and archery in the nearby sports halls.](#)

The school is now closed until at least next week, while a [16-year-old girl is in custody](#) after being arrested on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life.

18<sup>th</sup> January Attend online FSF Forum meeting. Fire Safety Strategy discussed.

20<sup>th</sup> January [Large Industrial fire in Bridgend South Wales.](#) – APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec notified to APPG and colleagues: [Huge fire caused building to collapse in minutes - BBC News \[bbc.co.uk\]\(http://bbc.co.uk\)](#)

22<sup>nd</sup> January BBC One Panorama – Schools - The programme gave a view of a [confused department](#), [money issues](#) and [underinvestment in schools- with little direction](#). [Aligns with what we have witnessed via the APPG.](#)

23<sup>rd</sup> January Government announced it's summary response to the [Building Safety Levy:consultation - Scope: which new residential developments would be in scope of the levy and who would be required to pay it.](#)

Exemptions: what new residential developments would be excluded from the levy.

Options for how the levy will be charged and the basis for how government will calculate it. - Protections for small and medium sized entities.

Delivery and collection options: including local authorities (LAs) acting as collection agents on behalf of government, a suggested process and sanctions.

23<sup>rd</sup> January – [Huge fire in Commercial area of Manchester – reported to APPG members.](#) 23<sup>rd</sup> January APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec and senior APPG Members Attended APPG meeting with FireQual, attended by Bob Blackman CBE MP, Rt. Hon. Sir Peter Bottomley MP – Co Vice Chair,, Rt. Hon. Sir Desmond Swayne MP - Co Vice Chair, Lord John Hendy KC - Co Vice Chair

Lord Goddard of Stockport, Lord Stunell, Baroness Grey-Thompson

Flora Klintworth – Researcher to Baroness Grey Thompson, Ronnie King – APPG Fire Adviser and Hon. Sec. Jim Fitzpatrick – Non-Executive Director – FireQual, Lewis Ramsay .Chair -FireQual – Non Exec Director-BAFE - Chair – Retired DCO, Douglas Barnett – Risk Management Director AXA-Chair–BAFE–Review Buildg Regs, Dr. Justin Maltby Smith -MD BAFE & FireQual-Bldng Servcs 3rd Party Cert. ([Minutes will shortly be posted on the NFSN and APPG websites](#))

23<sup>rd</sup> January - The Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities published its response to the consultation on the [new Building Safety Levy](#). This consultation ran from the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 - 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The government response can be found here: [Click](#)

The Building Safety Levy team thanked respondents for their help in shaping the proposals that they consulted on, such as the design of the levy payment process, possible exemptions from the levy charge and sanctions for non-payment of the levy. The government aims to implement the levy in the latter part of 2024 and to designate local authorities as collection agents for the Levy.

The further consultation can be accessed and completed directly using the following link: [click](#)

Government welcomes your views and contributions to this consultation.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us by email: [buildingsafetylevy@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:buildingsafetylevy@levellingup.gov.uk);

The Building Safety Levy Team

23<sup>rd</sup> January APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec Received notice of Event: [“How local councils can benefit from the levelling up agenda](#) on 31 January 2024 — 12.00 – 13.15 - “The levelling up agenda has been a hot topic recently, with many questions about what it means, which areas it applies to, and which sectors will benefit. Local (parish and town) councils are uniquely positioned to take advantage of the levelling up agenda, but they need to be prepared for the challenges that come with devolution.

This event will explain how local councils can survive and thrive in a devolved environment by taking on assets, liabilities, and services from their principal authority. You will learn about the benefits and challenges of devolution and hear from experts on how to make the most of the opportunities presented by the levelling-

up agenda. 25<sup>th</sup> January – received copy of video clip from Claire Mahoney BAFSA in which I contributed, to be shown at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BAFSA event in Parliament. Corresponded with Alex Norris MP, shadow Minister for Levelling Up re Fire Qual. Meeting with APPG.

Notified of Large Fire in Manchester:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/live-updates-reports-explosions-homes-28494539?utm\\_source=app&fbclid=IwAR0WZ3a59hHmT4qCzNhsO-VoJKfIS7f6VosfAmvu824IXZCFwFBCJhQuAWg\\_aem\\_AYk3y8iqP7n4wyHobtCjLjx-DYCipgiq74TuOpLO4rnmEfgXmQpKRx9wsl5rZcT3ARg\\*Irg98t2puu8x9tobtha;lw!!OekYeeAJtX8!i5Ar\\_BbYwGNInrzWJxer6SRAjKFQFwaHk\\_7dseld-IINwSKoiFFJjw69aUP94zUD03Kxe9\\_XOqP1zqciX71UID3q\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/live-updates-reports-explosions-homes-28494539?utm_source=app&fbclid=IwAR0WZ3a59hHmT4qCzNhsO-VoJKfIS7f6VosfAmvu824IXZCFwFBCJhQuAWg_aem_AYk3y8iqP7n4wyHobtCjLjx-DYCipgiq74TuOpLO4rnmEfgXmQpKRx9wsl5rZcT3ARg*Irg98t2puu8x9tobtha;lw!!OekYeeAJtX8!i5Ar_BbYwGNInrzWJxer6SRAjKFQFwaHk_7dseld-IINwSKoiFFJjw69aUP94zUD03Kxe9_XOqP1zqciX71UID3q$)

25<sup>th</sup> January confirmed with Claire Mahoney BAFSA: that: “that when the Sprinkler Legislation was passed for Wales - it went through in the Senedd”?

This is true (The Senedd houses the Welsh Government) - but the Legislation also went through both Houses of Parliament (Commons and Lords), and received Royal Assent by the Queen.

“Inside Housing news”: “The biggest news for the sector this week came from what was the first test of the post-Grenfell building safety regime that could pave the way for courts to demand building owners to pay for cladding fixes. A first-tier tribunal ruled that Stratford Village Development Partnership, the developer of East Village, and its parent company Get Living must pay £18m towards making five of the 66 blocks safe.”

27<sup>th</sup> January :Notice received of large fire in Liverpool Centre:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-68118572>

30<sup>th</sup> January – Notified by Dennis Davis Fire /sector Federation that the foundations are in place for a competence-led built environment.

## February 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2024 APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. attended RAAC Debate – House of Lords – Baroness Brinton contributed: “My Lords, I congratulate my noble friend Lord Addington on securing this important debate. It is always a pleasure to follow the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of St Albans. I declare my interests as vice-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Fire Safety and Rescue Group, and as a vice-president of the Local Government Association”. APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. assisted Baroness Brinton with background for her contribution to the debate. There had been a school fire coinciding in East Sussex:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2024/01/31/blatchington-mill-pupils-not-all-back-until-after-half-term/;!!OekYeeAJtX8!hhZTy\\_hgtfL4hLtVFDmAhYtMhGeLLX4zJcNc\\_i8qXcMA0hXklrSDK\\_WzM8njLBwzOpSdTtaVtk9abQYNcSN-N9ocJ\\_t4-NYz-\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2024/01/31/blatchington-mill-pupils-not-all-back-until-after-half-term/;!!OekYeeAJtX8!hhZTy_hgtfL4hLtVFDmAhYtMhGeLLX4zJcNc_i8qXcMA0hXklrSDK_WzM8njLBwzOpSdTtaVtk9abQYNcSN-N9ocJ_t4-NYz-$)

Baroness Brinton said:

“I have an interest in safety in school buildings since my children’s primary school, Mayfield in Cambridge, of which I was also chair of governors, was severely damaged by fire in September 2004. It took 100 firefighters eight hours to bring the blaze under control and, importantly, despite Cambridgeshire County Council providing a perfect alternative site close to the school within two weeks, there is no doubt that the many months of rebuild were disruptive to the children’s education, not to mention the emotional distress caused by the destruction of their beloved local school”

the full context of her contribution can be found at:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-02-01/debates/7B9F1D0C-3B88-4001-8272-ECFB3DDF4F33/SchoolsRAAC;>

2<sup>nd</sup> Feb APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. met online with [Helen Newton NFCC Head of Communications and Public Affairs](#) to [discuss response to BB110 Schools](#). An issue raised with me by APPG Member [Anna Firth MP](#) was in relation to some constituents who are living in a block with cladding installed since 2016 who are having to pay huge insurance premiums as the building is below the height where there is government support to remove the cladding. Their insurance premiums have more than tripled. [She asked if there has been any movement from the Association of British Insurers? They were promising to bring forward a scheme to help people in the affected buildings, do you know if this is coming soon?](#) Both DLUHC Minister [Lee Rowley MP](#) and my colleague [Martin Boyd](#), the new Chairman of Government's Leasehold Advisory Service confirmed that progress with Insurers is being made but it is taking longer to introduce the Scheme than anticipated. [Exchanged emails with George Turley \(PS to Minister Lee Rowley MP\) re the DRAFT minutes of the 13 December 2023 APPG meeting where Caroline Ansell MP's concerns were raised about Management Companies and Directors not being qualified and there was a limitation of such professionals currently available.](#) Schools Ministers are continuing to state that they have updated their guidance for new school buildings to ensure that they increase the already high fire safety standards in new schools". [This is not correct on both points and they need to be taken to task!!!](#) ."Inside Housing" magazine discusses some of the new Leaders facing the current housing crisis, and records their views. The HSE has introduced a mandatory occurrence notice and report for higher-risk buildings, including high-rise residential buildings. [Issues can now be reported to the Building Safety Regulator. Reported by Dennis Davis of the Fire Sector Federation.](#) 5<sup>th</sup> February Contacted by [Delyth Fetherston-Dilke, a lawyer and an upholsterer,](#) regarding the [concerns of 5,793 upholsters about the impact flame retardants are having on their health.](#) 7<sup>th</sup> February held online meeting with [Delyth Fetherston-Dilke and viewed her video footage re this issue.](#) 7<sup>th</sup> February made available to APPG Members a six page Briefing Note on Flame retardants in UK Furniture. [Briefing Document APG.pdf](#) . I advised the Chairman and members of the APPG (after closely examining the Minister's response letter to the Chairman of the EAC Committee, that the [EAC Chairman Rt. Hon. Philip Dunne MP should take up the Business & Trade Secretary's offer to meet to discuss this matter further and to include a small representation from the APPG in those discussions.](#) 8<sup>th</sup> February – APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. attended [BAFSA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch and meeting – Houses of Parliament Attlee Room House of Lords.](#) 9<sup>th</sup> Feb.. [Invitation from APPG Chairman Bob Blackman MP sent to Home Office Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire, the Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP to attend next meeting with the APPG in Feb/early March.](#) 9<sup>th</sup> February APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. completed supporting letters for two National Honours Awards. Exchanged correspondence with [Sir Ken Knight in relation to APPG member contact details.](#) APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. Further corresponded with [Kate Lambie Newsnight..re Grenfell Tower.](#) Further correspondence from Sir Ken Knight re a 'catch up' meeting in Westminster following his planned leave. Received reminder from Standards Office re timings for introducing various new Rules for APPG. Corresponded with APPG Chairman on this to outline our intended process. 10<sup>th</sup> February APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. corresponded with Ian Gough re . Re:Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Scrutiny Panel. APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. [outlined the new requirements for APPG's to have in place for an AGM held after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.](#) APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. Established with APPG Chairman the process to follow for APPG's under the new rules, when holding an AGM of the Group. 10<sup>th</sup> February. 12<sup>th</sup> Februar APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. received correspondence/response from PS Chris Philp advising on the Minister's likely availability to attend an APPG meeting on return from February Recess. 13 Feb [Parliamentary Question from Mike Amesbury: "To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many and what proportion of high rise buildings have sprinklers installed"](#). Answered by [DLUHC Minister Lee](#)

Rowley MP: “Retrofitting sprinklers may, but might not always, be the right option and other fire safety measures could be taken that may be appropriate for an individual building.” This resonates with the pre Grenfell standard response from Government Ministers: “sprinklers are only one of a package of measures..etc.... Dame Judith Hackitt used a much preferred phrase: “There are a number of ways of satisfying the RRO, however by installing automatic fire sprinkler protection, you are more likely to get past the appropriate GATEWAY”.

14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Corresponded with Caterina Frosia (Ukraine) over the dates available for the APPG meeting with Home Office Minister Chris Philp MP, and the likely Ukraine involvement. 14<sup>th</sup> February corresponded with DCO Lee Shears Cheshire FRS re BB100 Schools and questions to be asked at the LGA Fire Conference. 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Confirmed availability to participate in NFCC online meeting on forthcoming LGA Fire Conference involving Lee Shears Cheshire, Rob Barber Staffs and Jonathan Dyson N Yorkshire CFO to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> March. 19<sup>th</sup> February A statement has been made by DLUHC Sec. of State Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP today. Mostly it is around increasing housing, funding and clarity on limits. The last part refers to the two staircase debate and he highlights that guidance will be delivered by the end of March. Also within this note he makes it clear that an evacuation lift will not be “called for as a matter of course”.

This is very interesting given the launch of the NFCC guidance the week before on the subject. One might conclude that this statement has been amended to add this statement after the NFCC launch. (please see statement at: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2024-02-19/hcws264>

At the heart of this is perhaps questions from the APPG Members around equity of access and egress for all. We need to see the details but this is a matter that I am sure the APPG will return to. 20<sup>th</sup> February confirmation with PS Chris Philp MP and APPG Members for the next meeting with Home Office Minister of State Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm in Portcullis House. (notified HOC Room Bookings. The meeting will also be attended online by UKRAINE Government Interior Ministry State Secretary and State Emergency Services Deputy Head. A list of matters to raise with the Minister prepared and agreed with APPG members. 20<sup>th</sup> February Travel to London – overnight ahead of NFSN meeting at Offices of FM Global on 21<sup>st</sup> February. 22<sup>nd</sup> February Corresponded and spoke with Delyth Fetherston Dilke, Lawyer and Upholsterer re possible meeting with EAC Chairman Philip Dunne MP and Business and Trade Minister Kevin Hollinrake MP. Received a copy of Home Office Fire Safety Reform Bulletin. Quarterly Fire Safety Reform Bulletin No4.pdf; 22 Feb. received a copy of the New changes to British concrete standards to drive the decarbonisation of buildings and infrastructure. - The new changes to the BS8500 are the most significant since the 1980s and have been launched by BSI. If widely adopted across all UK construction sites they could save one million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year by replacing a significant amount of traditional cement (CEM I), the main ingredient in concrete and the primary source of carbon dioxide emissions in concrete. The standard allows designers and engineers to create concrete mixes that blend finely ground limestone from UK quarries with other materials such as fly ash, a by-product from power generation and ground granulated blast furnace slag (GGBS), a by-product from the steel industry.

With the new UK standards now available, the cement (CEM1) content in concrete can be replaced with up to 20 per cent of limestone powder, a product widely available in the UK. Received the Competency update from D Davis Fire Sector Federation: Competency: DraftForPublicComment BS9792.pdf (basecamp.com). 23 February APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. Exchanged emails with Josh Hawkins re APPG website. APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. received article from Inside Housing re how social landlords should prepare themselves to respond to flood emergencies, which are set to become more frequent as the climate changes.

Report from “Inside Housing’ that In London, **Newham Council said it will spend £63.5m on making the 87 high-rise blocks it owns comply with new building safety legislation by 2029.**

The scale of the challenge facing the sector on fire safety remediation was laid bare by the English regulator, which revealed that **more than 500 buildings owned by housing associations and councils with “life-critical” fire safety defects still have “unclear or incomplete” plans to fix them.**

The Regulator of Social Housing’s second fire safety survey found 1,952 blocks that are 11 metres or taller have been identified by landlords with life-critical fire safety defects related to the external wall system.

26<sup>th</sup> February In order to have a perspective of the history of the DfE Fire Safety Design Guide for new Schools (BB100) APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. R King prepared a ‘timeline’ of his personal involvement with this which would be [posted on the NFSN and APPG websites.](#)

R King wrote to Inna Yaschuk State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, inviting her to attend the APPG meeting with Home Office Minister – the Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 by online “ZOOM” link, which she accepted.

## March 2024

1<sup>st</sup> March Notified of a serious fire in a block of flats in Kensington

With 11 people in hospital as residents flee flats blaze:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cerw9xxlk1po>;

Footage shows police officers rescuing people from fire

Media caption, Metropolitan Police officers showed "bravery and professionalism" as they rescued residents from the fire. Published 4 March 2024

Dramatic footage released showing the moment when officers rescued people from a burning block of flats. The fire broke out at Emperor’s Gate in South Kensington, west London, just after midnight on Friday, 1 March. About 160 people were evacuated from the five-storey block and seven police officers were among 13 people who were taken to hospital. The Met Police said a 25-year-old man has been charged on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life and remained in custody.



IMAGE SOURCE, LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Image caption,

The fire broke out at Emperor's Gate in South Kensington, west London, just after midnight on Friday

The body worn footage, released by the Met, shows police officers kicking down the front door to enter the block. After getting through the front door, officers then gained access to six flats to rescue those inside. Fifteen fire engines and about 100 firefighters also attended the scene, rescuing those still trapped. About 160 people were evacuated from the five-storey block. Police said the arrested man was due before Westminster magistrates later. The officers and six residents taken to hospital suffered smoke inhalation during the fire, but none suffered more serious injuries. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea said it was continuing to support and assist those affected by the fire and had set up [website for residents, external](#) to get help and information.

**APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. Notified Advisers and colleagues Also notified thirty Seven members (MP's and Peers),**

**1<sup>st</sup> March APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. Notified LFB Deputy Commissioner and Political Liaison officer FBU, re the forthcoming 5<sup>th</sup> March APPG meeting with Home Office Minister of State, the Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP, as well as Regions of the Ukraine Fire Services. Who would participate online. . 2<sup>nd</sup> March Received [Government consultation - Open consultation "Smarter regulation: proposed changes to legislation for electrically assisted pedal cycles potentially has implications to add to problems of Lithium-ion batteries, and abuse"](#).**

**APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. also Provided list of all MP's and Peers currently members of the APPG Fire Safety & Rescue for local Fire & Rescue Services information. (via NFSN officials) 3<sup>rd</sup> March Report from "Inside Housing" magazine that Building inspectors have to register with the Building Safety Regulator by 6 April as part of the Building Safety Act, which was introduced in the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire. However, concerns have been raised that a "significant number" will miss the deadline, and likely leading to chaos!! Received an update on the Leaseholder issues from Leasehold Knowledge Partnership, as debated in the House of Commons. It is worth noting:**

<https://www.leaseholdknowledge.com/leasehold-bill-what-a-missed-opportunity-with-just-about-every-mp-wanting-to-go-further/#:~:text=The%20full%20debate,Parliament.tv%20here;>

**"DLUHC Minister Rowley warned 'urgent action' needed over building inspector crisis."**

**"More than 500 buildings with 'life-critical' defects have no clear remediation plan."**

**"Barton House: fire expert raises concerns over safety report as residents return."**

**"London council outlines £63.5m plan to ensure 87 blocks meet fire safety laws within five years."**

**4<sup>th</sup> March - Commenced preparation of Annual Report for APPG, Plus a Financial report, and preparing Evidence to meet the "Due Diligence" criteria for APPG's under the new Rules.**

Note from ["Inside Housing"](#). [Newham Council](#) has issued an improvement notice to the developer of a block in the Olympic Village with fire safety defects. More than 500 buildings with 'life-critical' defects have no clear remediation plan

**[Barton House](#): fire expert raises concerns over safety report as residents return**

**London council outlines £63.5m plan to ensure 87 blocks meet fire safety laws within five years.**

Received information from Ukraine in relation to the impact of the Russian war in that particular Region, on the state of organisation and conduct of emergency rescue operations and mine countermeasures in the Main Department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Odesa region.

**5<sup>th</sup> March APPG Meeting with Home Officer Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, the Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP**

**As a result, almost every day, equipment and machinery are destroyed under enemy fire, and rescuers lose their lives. As of March 5, 2024, 86 rescuers have died, 332**

**have been injured, and 5 are in captivity while performing their duties. The aggressor**

has destroyed or damaged over 1,657 pieces of SESU equipment and destroyed 393 firefighting and rescue units. Despite all the difficulties, SESU continues to fulfil its main mission - saving human lives, and during the war, it has already conducted 138,013 missions to eliminate the consequences of attacks on populated areas.

Home Office Minister Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP responded positively announcing a seventh convoy in April, and promised to consider other ways in which we could help with decommissioning mines and providing related equipment. After Ukraine signed off the meeting the APPG members engaged the Minister on a list of matters:

1. [Minimum Service Levels – During Dispute action. Update](#)

2. [Means of Escape Plans - Clarification on second staircase in Blocks of Residential Flats over 18 metres - removal of evacuation lifts - PEEPS update. \(Minutes of the meeting will be made available on the NFSN website\).](#)

3. [LORD GODDARD'S DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS – 14TH Dec 2023](#) England and the case for a new integrated Review to update Fire Safety Guidance – HANSARD: buildings safety Lords debate Fire Safety Regulations and Guidance - Motion to Take Note

4. [GOVERNMENT POLICY ON AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER PROTECTION IN CARE PREMISES AND SCHOOLS\).](#)

5. [ONGOING ISSUES WITH LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES](#)

[\(See Letter from London Fire Brigade and News article attached\)](#)

[\(Minutes from the APPG Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 will be available shortly on the NFSN and APPG \(Fire Safety & Rescue\) websites.](#)

6<sup>th</sup> March APPG Adviser and Hon. Sec. held Online meeting with Josh Hawkins re provision of the [APPG website](#). 7<sup>th</sup> March APPG Adviser.Hon. Sec. participated in a [ZOOM](#) meeting with [DCO Lee Shears Cheshire FRS, CFO Jonathan Dyson N Yorks FRS and Rob Barber CFO Staffordshire FRS](#). re LGA Fire Conference and the wording of a question from Cheshire Fire Authority Chair to the attending Minister..8<sup>th</sup> march corresponded with CFO Jonathan Dyson to connect him to Rachael Maskell MP a member of the APPG and a North Yorkshire MP. He needs to brief her on some important fire related issues. 11<sup>th</sup> March APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. corresponded with [Susannah Hancock, Chief Executive of the NFCC](#) to arrange a meeting in Westminster Parliament on 21<sup>st</sup> March [along with Helen Newton – Director of Communications and Current Affairs NFCC](#).14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 APPG Adviser.Hon. Sec. Followed up on the failure to respond from the [Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee to APPG Chairman Bob Blackman CBE MP's letter in relation to Foam Filled Furniture](#). 14<sup>th</sup> March – arranged to meet [Dr Gavin Dunn](#), the new Managing Director of the Fire Protection Association, over lunch in Westminster on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Fire occurred in [Edinburgh Block of Flats](#) notified to APPG members:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czvz0xg81z8o>

19<sup>th</sup> March APPG Adviser.Hon. Sec. circulated to all APPG Members a copy of the minutes of the EGM of the All-Party Group, where the list of four officers and a minimum of twenty members was clarified and voted upon, in addition to the compliance with “Due Diligence” satisfactorily documented and confirmed arrangements for the [AGM of the APPG on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024](#). 20<sup>th</sup> March APPG Adviser.Hon. Sec. arranged with David Owens (Accountant) for the financial statement and records to be undertaken before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 APPG Adviser.Hon. Sec. Meeting with [Susannah Hancock Chief Exec, of NFCC and Helen Newton Head of Comms NFCC in Westminster Portcullis House](#). APPG Adviser.Hon. Sec. Attended [Fire Aid Fundraising Lunch in Cholmondeley Room House of Lords, sponsored by Lord Godsdard](#). 26<sup>th</sup> March lunch meeting with Dr Gavin Dunne, new MD of the Fire Protection Association at the Houses of Parliament. Met earlier in the morning in Portcullis House with [Ahmed Peerbux and Olaide Sadiq of Rogan Productions – re Grenfell Tower. Phase 2 report](#). 27<sup>th</sup> March APPG Adviser.Hon. Sec. attended Houses of Parliament – [Leasehold and Freehold Reform](#)



**Bill debate and Building Safety Debate.(Lords) 30<sup>th</sup> March Sprinklers in care homes, removal of national classes, and staircases in residential buildings**

**Page summary: - We are seeking views to inform future updates to Approved Document B Change made: Added government response, impact assessment, equality analysis, and environmental principles assessment guide.**