

Bernadette Hartely Award 2024



Keith MacGillivray former BAFSA CEO was presented with the Bernadette Hartely Award at the NFSN meeting on 30 August held at the Great Manchester Fire Rescue Headquarters.

Terry McDermott gave a short speech about Keith from information gathered from many sources.

“Keith is a very positive advocate of sprinklers, he has become a respected and influential figure in the sprinkler industry in his role as the NFSN Baffa Scottish Rep for a number of years and then seven years as the chief executive of BAFSA. Keith has been at the centre of driving improvements in sprinklers across the UK and as an NFSN Executive, he has been a huge influence providing assistance, guidance, advice and support to the Executive and the network as a whole”.

In his earlier years he served in the Strathclyde Fire Brigade from 1974 to 2008 and during his career, he served as the chief advisor in fire rescue service matters to the Scottish Government. When he retired, he held the rank of Assistant Chief Fire officer. He has worked as a fire consultant expert witness since 2009. Keith has also been the director of the NFPA and Chairman of the Fire Fighters Charity. He was awarded and MBE for services to the charity in the 2007 New Year’s honours list.

Alasdair Perry the new CEO of BAFSA said that when Keith took over in BAFSA, he had a mission and Keith was quoted as saying at the time. “I look forward to the challenge of promoting the wider use of sprinklers throughout the UK and continuing to work to promote sprinklers through BAFSA as the foremost organisation for sprinkler development in the UK. In particular, I will be developing the education and qualification profiles of BAFSA members”.

Alasdair reflected that Keith has made a huge impact on introducing qualifications and raising standards. Alasdair said “You've driven far beyond expectations with driving competence in the sprinkler industry and successfully advocated for changes in regulations across England, Scotland and Wales, helping to ensure the quality of sprinkler systems installed and, most importantly, ensuring sprinkler systems were designed, installed and maintained to the highest standards so that when they were needed, they could be relied upon to operate successfully. You have made a huge impact on the industry in the sector and your work has undoubtedly contributed to the saving of many lives and property from fire.”