



## Members Meeting - 9 September 2024 – 10am

### In person:

Rob Barber (RB) – NFSN/SFRS, Terry McDermott (TMc) – NFSN,  
Ali Perry (AP) – BAFSA, Roger Brason (RBr) – SYFRS,  
Ritchie O’Connell (RO) – BAFSA, Toni Maddox (TM) – NFSN,  
Tom Marchant – WMFS, Nick Toner- Nationwide Fire Sprinklers,  
Craig Gilliver – Nationwide Fire Sprinklers, Rajeev Rai – AIG, Sandra Withnall – AIG, Gareth  
Murtagh – Derbyshire FRS, Steve King – WMFS, Trevor Wilkes – WMFS, Jodi Vincent – WMFS,  
Kieron McGinn – WMFS, Nicholas Coleshill – BAFSA,  
Dale Kinnersley – FPA

### Online:

Tom Roche (FM Global), Richard Clark – NFCC, Marcus Beechley – Cheshire FRS

### Apologies:

Ronnie King – NFSN/APPG, Ian Cox – NFSN/BSA, Alan Brinson – EFSN,  
Jonathan Dyson, NFCC/NYFRS

## Welcome and Introduction – CFO Barber (Chair)

RB welcomed everyone to the meeting and stressed the importance of all FRS’s to engage with new MP’s so they are informed about fire protection and the benefits of sprinklers.

Discussed :

- Grenfell Phase 2 Report and offered to provide a more concise version to distribute to those interested.
- His work with NFCC promoting the importance of sprinklers
- BB100 progress
- Fire engineering, built environments and what FRS’s can do to support fire protection
- Autumn budgets - RB anticipated that no new money will be made available for public sector, more likely that budget’s will be frozen or reduced. Will be no money from local authorities for retrofitting.

## TM – Obtain shortened report from RB on website

1. Minutes and actions from last members meeting – reviewed & confirmed outstanding actions.
  - TMc – to provide the English version of Swedish consultation to put on website
  - NC- Helen Newton didn’t think Sprinkler Saves article appropriate for 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary newsletter but would come out as in another iteration from NFCC  
RB – to speak to Helen Newton at NFCC to discuss distribution of NFSN correspondence and to add Sprinkler Saves to newsletter.
  - TM – to liaise with Nick Coleshill to include the sprinklers saves QR code on the NFSN website
  - AP – BAFSA are putting together a BIF that FRS can use when they attend fires with sprinklers. This will be shared with NFCC and NFSN.

- TMC/AP – to explore providing a more English version of the Dutch report into firefighting in sprinklered buildings .
- AP/TMC/Nc Video interviews around to support Latin American Fire Safety Day
- TM- to ask RK for the list of MP’s on APPG for website
- RK – To update on the feasibility of running an event in Parliament – see if any progress now that new government in place.

2. Finance update -TM

Members Lost in 2024 – Project Fire (RB attempted to get back but no response), States of Jersey FRS, BUPA and Residential Fire Protection

Members Gained in 2024 – BAFSA, EFSN, Levick Design – net increase in dues £3,150

Grant from IFSA – originally to be paid over 2 years, 2024 & 2025 but have received payment in full - £13,725.90 (\$18,000) to be used to support Ronnie’s efforts in the APPG, improving website and doing research.

3. Update from Tom Roche (TR)

Discussed new government - Angela Rayner (MHCLG), Yvette Cooper (Home Office), Dame Diana Johnson (Police & Fire), Rushanara Ali (Building Safety - MHCLG) , Baroness Taylor (House of Lords)

Reviewed the Grenfell tower inquiry report.

Discussed Schools – awaiting new government direction

Reviewed Amendments to Sprinklers and care homes and quoted Ruharna Ali – *“A compassionate society protects its most vulnerable. Today, I am also publishing an update to ‘Approved Document B’ that makes provision for sprinklers in all new care homes. Sprinklers enhance fire protection where residents may be reliant on others for help and assistance, especially if a building evacuation is needed. Many care home providers already include sprinklers in new designs. For those that do not yet provide for sprinklers, again, I recognise that businesses and investors seek certainty. So, care homeowners and developers will benefit from a six-month transition period until the guidance comes into effect and will then have a further six months to enable work on current development projects that are underway, or about to start, to continue.”*

**Section 2: Design for horizontal escape**

**Residential care homes**

**Bedrooms**

**Page 26** Replace paragraph 2.43 with the following.

**2.43** Bedrooms should not contain more than one single or double bed.

**NOTE:** It is not the intention to separate couples who happen to live in a care home by recommending that they sleep in separate bedrooms or beds.

**Sprinkler systems**

**Page 27** Replace paragraph 2.46 with the following.

**2.46** Care homes should be fitted with a sprinkler system throughout the building in accordance with Appendix E.

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**Page 151** Replace the entry for **BS 9251** with the following.

**BS 9251** Fire sprinkler systems for domestic and residential occupancies. Code of practice [2021].

Schools: Recommendations to government need to be reissued as they do not follow through with new government

Reviewed various fires:

**Dagenham Fire:** Building under refurbishment – scale of fire surprising. There were not sprinklers in the building as there were no requirements for buildings of this height. How do we push for retrofitting requirements – no budget but pressure can be applied to make sprinklers a requirement.

**Cannock Fire:** 38,000 sq meters warehouse, planning approved in 2016 and facility opened in 2019 was not sprinklered and is unclear how it met guidance but possibly because it was subdivided by walls.

#### 4. Update from Richard Clark - NFCC

*“ADB update – In the summer, the English government announced an update of ADB which finalises the outcomes of the 2022 consultation on the requirement for the provision of sprinklers in care homes, NFCC had been part of the discussions on this area and see it as a positive outcome, particularly as the previous 'relaxations' (with regard to omission of door closers, number of bedrooms in a compartment) have been taken out. This meets with our view that the provision of sprinklers is the minimum standard required in new buildings to ensure the safety of occupants who may be reliant on staff to evacuate buildings. There is also a current review of the Article 50 guidance for Care Homes for the Fire Safety Order which NFCC is also feeding in to. The changes to the guidance in Approved Document B will come into effect on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 ([Amendments to Approved Document B: Fire safety \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#))*

*BS 9991 has now completed a technical draft and has gone to a vote by its parent committee. We are raising concerns with regards to the publication of updated guidance so soon after the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report which raises some issues around building design.*

*NFCC are currently working with government to clarify Fire and Rescue Services ability to give pre-application advice for new buildings following the introduction of duty holder roles in the Building Regulations in 2023. Such advice could include details about the specification of sprinklers systems; we will share advice when we know more about this.”*

Discussion on Lithium ion battery fires – in homes and waste fires discussed with example of a fire at a recycling plant housing over 900 tons of lithium ion batteries in southern France. Also an incident resulting in loss of life of Firefighters in Poland due to battery explosion.

Lithium – ion battery Safety Bill second reading 6 September

Discussed - Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition USA, can NFSN/NFCC work with them to share documents they have a sprinkler saves website in USA.

**Action – who can work with them to share – TR?**

5. Parliamentary Business/ All Party Group reports (to include BB100) (TMC reading RK’s report which is found at end of minutes)

TMC recommended Grenfell Podcast

[BBC Sounds - The Grenfell Tower Inquiry Podcast - Available Episodes](#)

**Action - TM to put link on website, get list of MP’s on APPG, Ronnie King in the media - look for links for web site.**

6. Lunch

## 7. Sprinkler Saves Update (NC)

[Sprinkler Saves Presentation - NFSN Meeting 9 September](#)

## 8. Research with Optimal economics (TMcD)

TM explained that an additional meeting had occurred with Optimal to scope the research into the whole life cost effectiveness of sprinklers in schools. It was agreed that Optimal would be engaged to develop the research document.

## 9. NFCC (RC)

- Meetings around payoffs of installations of sprinklers
- Need to limit people in the compartments
- People need to be able to evacuate even if building is sprinklered.
- Phase 2 recommendations
- Fire spread exterior of buildings not accounted for in 9991
- Having an updated standard is better than no standard

## 10. Group Updates

### BAFSA(AP)

- Working with Scottish Gov in aftermath of Cameron House Fire to promote legislation for converted buildings
- Advising a care home in a historic building
- BAFSA has produced a Level 1 training course free introduction to sprinklers – Awareness of Automated Fire Sprinkler Systems [BAFSA Free Course](#) . A more advanced course is in the works for professionals such as architects.
- Producing a course to do online for FRS's to do online – things to look for at a sprinklered fire

### Welsh Rep (RO)

- Electrical Charges – with own parking spaces.
- Working with social housing providers to promote benefits of retrofitting public buildings with Sprinklers
- Schools – The risk of changes risk assessment not being put in BB100 but put in government briefings. Briefings are changed often but people not made aware of it as it is not public facing.
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## 11. Members updates

**Cheshire FRS** (Marcus Beechey) – recently moved back into Fire Safety looking for guidance  
**NC offered to contact Marcus Beechey TMC to give contact details**

**West Midlands FRS** – no update

### Derbyshire FRS

- Discussed a sprinkler save in a high rise building and highlighted that less resources were needed since the sprinkler system contained the fire.
- Implemented Protection Pathways – FRS must complete a Sprinkler Course (currently in house course would appreciate access to external courses)
- Service does presentations at the local architectural college and have invited students in house to inspire them to think about access for fire trucks etc.

- Working with Housing provider group – good attendance but some finding it difficult to implement the strategies due to lack of resources.

**FPA (DK) Dale – Covered**

- Part 2 being revised
- EN Standards
- Part 1 standard
- Rules being written for insurers – updates should hopefully be available at December meeting
- FPA has a training system on sprinkler systems for FRS should contact Dale to use facility

AIG (RR) – Trying to get data sets to help drive change

South Yorkshire (RB) - Reassessing fire training centre

12. Future events

Next meeting 5 December (RB not available that date but can join online) – possibly Scotland/or at FPA

**TM Follow up with DK to secure a date at the FPA for next meeting**

13. AOB

None

RB thanked everyone for attending and concluded meeting.

ALL- PARTY PARLIAMENTARY FIRE SAFETY & RESCUE GROUP



**APPG FIRE SAFETY & RESCUE UPDATE REPORT SINCE THE NFSN's LAST MEETING IN MANCHESTER IN APRIL 2024**

**FROM RONNIE KING**

- **MAY 2024**  
1st May The month opened with notice of the sad death of APPG Member Lord Andrew Stunell. He was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government under Secretary of State Eric Pickles. His responsibilities in the role were community cohesion, race equality, building regulations and the implementation of the Big Society particularly with regard to housing and regeneration.

I corresponded with the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) Chairman asking for the response in his letter to include the Group in any meeting with Minister Hollinrake on the response received on the Revised Fire Foam Filled furniture Regulations. Also received an amended Flame retardants Briefing Note from Delyth Fetherston Dilk- (A lawyer and upholsterer).

**[Briefing Document APG v2 - Flame Retardants in UK Furniture.pdf](#)**

**There are concerns that the hundreds of upholsterers are increasingly suffering from the effects of flame retardants used in furniture.**

**First meeting and correspondence with Ahmed Peerbux re a “Netflix Documentary Film programme on Grenfell post Inquiry publication of Phase 2 Final Report. I was asked to participate and did so last week for a whole day of filming and interviews. The documentary will last for an hour.**

**I also received an update from NFSN Executive Member Tom Roche re BB100 in schools (BB100), Instead of highlighting sprinklers through BB100, the DfE are making them the requirement in the form of the Generic Brief for Schools in Section 2.14.5. This needed to be brought out in debate and resolved through the APPG.**

**I secured some of the remaining signatures to the revised BB100 open letter going to the Secretary of State for Education, at the time, the Rt. Hon. Gillian Keegan MP, and it was despatched.**

**The APPG received a request from the MP for Poplar and Limehouse, Aspana Begum, to sign a letter calling for a Public Inquiry into the New Providence Wharf Flats Fire. Agreed by the Chairman and circulated to all MP’s on APPG. (Many signed the letter).**

**On 13<sup>th</sup> May I also Agreed with Sir Peter Bottomley MP and Bob Blackman MP to hold a Joint APPG meeting (Fire and Leasehold) on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June in Main Commons Committee Room 10 (up to 100 people) to receive an Introduction: “Launch of the Fire Safety Reinsurance Facility – to help improve the availability of insurance for certain buildings with combustible cladding and other fire safety issues”. – Laura Hughes - Assistant Director, Head of General Insurance Policy – Association of British Insurers. (accompanied by Chris Rumsey – Assistant Director, Head of Public Affairs – ABI). Both APPG Chairs and members would attend this important meeting along with invited audience with an interest in this matter.**

## Fire Safety Reinsurance Facility finalised

### Fire Safety Reinsurance Facility

14<sup>th</sup> May provided photographs to Claire Mahoney (BAFSA) for next edition of Sprinkler Focus. Also received notification of what appeared to be an astronomical charge by Thames Water for a sprinkler connection. (to be raised at next APPG meeting). It was recorded also by Tony Lloyd MD of Staysafe at the last NFSN meeting.

I posted the NFCC's position Statement on the APPG website in relation to Automatic Water Suppression Systems Policy: as follows:

I wish to draw APPG Members' attention to the National Fire Chiefs Council's Policy Statement on Automatic Water Suppression Systems (Fire Sprinklers) as outlined via the links below, which was released earlier this week, together with an accompanying news article:

### [NFCC calls on Government to strengthen sprinkler requirements](#)

21<sup>st</sup> May I arranged to provide an annual update to former MP Emma Dent-Coad for the seventh anniversary of the Grenfell Tower Fire Tragedy debate in Parliament. Also purchased a copy of her book: "One Kensington"

### [One Kensington - Buy Here](#)

22<sup>nd</sup> May Notice received of date for publication of Grenfell Tower [Publication of the Phase 2 Report | Grenfell Tower Inquiry](#) on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Followed up on a number of issues from "Inside Housing" which the APPG subscribes to and brought to the attention of APPG members to raise as they see fit.

This position statement was also forwarded to the Secretary of



State for Education, on the back of the updated OPEN letter on Schools (BB100) to reinforce the strength of views supporting the benefits of greater automatic sprinkler protection in respect of keeping Government's vital assets safe from the effects of fire.

Agenda agreed for APPG Joint meeting with Leasehold Reform APPG to be held in Parliament on 10<sup>th</sup> June in Committee Room 10 – jointly chaired by Sir Peter Bottomley MP and Bob Blackman MP. Which unfortunately had to be postponed following the PM's decision to hold a General Election.

As a consequence on the 24<sup>th</sup> May I attended the last sitting of Parliament when the Lords passed the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Bill.

A General Election would follow on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. And the APPG had to cease to function until the new Parliament was established and not before the King's Speech.

I attended Westminster Parliament on the 8<sup>th</sup> July to meet with new Members for potential recruitment. The new Member for Kensington was soon to be signed up, Joe Powell MP, together with my own Carmarthen MP, Ann Davies. I canvassed numerous others who are still considering, but I did secure the new Member for Blackpool South Chris Webb following a fire in a domestic dwelling where two adults died and the two children were hospitalised.

26<sup>th</sup> May Received an issue of BAFSA Sprinkler Focus:

[BAFSA Focus Magazine - Spring 2024](#)

28<sup>th</sup> May notified of FIDRA environmental charity focusing on chemical flame retardants (Joanna Cloy, a scientist working for FIDRA) who was holding a "Virtual" Seminar on 13<sup>th</sup> June titled: "Sustainable Fire Safety without chemical Flame Retardants". I attended the two hour event myself and circulated others.

**June commenced with the General Election, which turned out in putting a temporary HALT on the implementation of the Revised Design Guide for new Schools BB100. The new Secretary of State for Education is Bridget Phillipson MP for Houghton and Sunderland South. We have two members of Parliament in close proximity, and possibly the Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service might be able to help!!**

**June also began though Nick Coleshill (BAFSA Sprinkler Lead) reporting London Fire Brigade (LFB) highlighting a series of incidents for the period 1 May- 29 May 2024 where fire sprinklers were reported as present and having an impact.**

**4<sup>th</sup> June – Notified of Northern Ireland Assembly Defective Premises Bill which followed from the England Building Safety Act 2022. Discussed Fire Safety issues with “Construction News” Editorial – in particular issues arising from Grenfell and the Public Inquiry..**

**7<sup>th</sup> June Inside Housing article: “Inside Housing CPD programme: the new building safety regime - Why has the new building safety regime been introduced, what is different, and what do social landlords need to do to ensure compliance? Andrew Moore, head of operations for building control and planning service at the Building Safety Regulator, explains. I Shared this with colleagues and Leaseholder Group. “Inside Housing has previously spoken to former DLUHC Sec. of State Michael Gove, along with Labour shadow housing minister Matthew Pennycook and the Scottish housing minister Paul McLennan about their attitudes to the delivery of social housing as part of the Build Social campaign.**

**(Ahead of a new Government)’**

**10<sup>th</sup> June I was notified of a sprinkler save in Newport (South Wales) involving a ‘chip pan’ fire in a kitchen. (shared with APPG members). 11<sup>th</sup> June Notified of the following from Parliament:**

- **State Opening of Parliament**
- **Private Members’ Bill ballot**

- **State Opening of Parliament Lunch**
- **Read POST's latest quarterly newsletter**

**12<sup>th</sup> June Notified of “Why has the new building safety regime been introduced and what do landlords need to do to ensure compliance”? Andrew Moore at the Building Safety Regulator explains.**

**The State Opening of Parliament would take place at 11.30am on Wednesday 17 July, so the Inaugural meeting of the APPG had to wait until after that.**

**13<sup>th</sup> June I participated in the online two hour event: “Effective sustainable Fire Safety without chemical flame retardants” from 4pm to 6pm.**

**14<sup>th</sup> June – received a letter from FireQual (Douglas Barnett and Lewis Ramsay re standards of competence within the UK Fire Sector – forwarded to APPG members who attended a recent meeting with FireQual.**

**14<sup>th</sup> June marks the seventh Anniversary of the Grenfell Tower Fire Tragedy. 17<sup>th</sup> June – notified that the NFSN meeting planned for 25<sup>th</sup> June has been postponed until after the General Election. 17<sup>th</sup> June notified of the date for Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report: [Publication of the Phase 2 Report | Grenfell Tower Inquiry](#)**

**17<sup>th</sup> June notified APPG Leasehold Group of cancellation of joint meeting re insurance of Blocks of flats with combustible cladding. (to be rearranged).**

**Received Lords Library magazine – [House of Lords Library](#)**

**24<sup>th</sup> June received current Digital Edition of “Inside Housing” Magazine –shared aspects with APPG Members and others.**

**Excellent article from Pete Apps Seven years since Grenfell – a timeline And held**

**28<sup>th</sup> June “Inside Housing”**

**[The Week in Housing: Sir Keir Starmer’s vision for housing, the sector’s biggest builders revealed and a week of learning](#)**

**28<sup>TH</sup> June 2024 Noted in Fire Protection Engineering magazine of the Fire Protection Challenges in Wind Turbines link here**

**[Fire Protection Challenges in Wind Turbines](#)**

**(advised APPG Members and Fire Sector Federation). Also notified of South Korean lithium battery factory fire which killed 23 workers:**

**[South Korean lithium battery fire kills 23 workers](#)**

**– notified APPG members and Fire Sector Federation.**

**I attended Parliament on the State opening and ensured that the APPG would be quorate for its Inaugural meeting being held on 29<sup>th</sup> July in Portcullis House.**

**The following decisions were made:**

**Officers:**

**Chairman – Bob Blackman CBE MP**

**Vice Chair – Mary Glendon MP**

**Co Vice Chair – Baroness Brinton**

**Co Vice Chair – Lord Goddard**

**Members are the four officers plus:**

**Sir Desmond Swayne MP – Co Vice Chair**

**Lord John Hendy KC – Co Vice Chair**

**Andy Slaughter MP**

**Mary Foy MP**  
**Baroness Grey-Thompson**  
**Apsana Begum MP**  
**Joe Powell MP**  
**Ann Davies MP**  
**Chris Webb MP**  
**Jim Shannon MP**  
**Lord Jim Knight**  
**Rachael Maskell MP**  
**Kim Leadbeater MP**  
**Kim Johnson MP**  
**Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown MP The**  
**Earl of Lytton.**

**With Sir Peter Bottomley (former MP) as Asst, Hon. Sec.**  
**The following Advisers were also re-confirmed:**

**Brian Robinson – Former London Fire Commissioner Tom**  
**Roche – FM Global Insurance and NFSN Exec.**  
**Jane Duncan – RIBA – Chair Fire Expert Panel**  
**Paul Bussey – RIBA – Fire Expert Panel**  
**John Cole – RIBA – Fire Expert Panel**  
**Mike Wood BA Hons OXON – Specialist in Fire Doors & Glazing.**

**Parliament rose for Summer Recess on 30<sup>th</sup> July but I continued to remain active in meetings and media interviews in the run-up to the Grenfell Tower Report publication as well as preparing Briefing notes for APPG members circulated ahead of the Report's publications. I also liaised with Kate Lamble of Grenfell podcast and BBC Newsnight, who also produced a 10 part series of the Public Inquiry for BBC Radio 4. Titled: "Building a Disaster"**

**I will add more information shortly to this report, which will be further reference to the APPG's role.**

**Ronnie King OBE, O.St.J, QFSM, F.I.Fire E  
Adviser & Hon. Sec. APPG**