**APPG FIRE SAFETY & RESCUE – ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024**

**PREPARED BY APPG ADVISER & HON. SEC. RONNIE KING OBE, IN CONSULTATION WITH APPG CHAIRMAN BOB BLACKMAN CBE MP - AND OFFICERS OF THE GROUP – MARY GLINDON MP – BARONESS BRINTON – AND PETER ALDOUS MP**

**This report represents a month by month activity of the issues with which the APPG has been involved or considered, either by correspondence, telephone or through meetings during the past twelve months, which have an impact on Fire & Building Safety. It follows up on the 34,000 word Statement and almost one hundred exhibits sent to Counsel to the Grenfell Public Inquiry during phase TWO. It will be published on the APPG website.**

**JANUARY 2023 -**

**1st January 2023 – Corresponded and telephoned Ms. Caterina Boico (Ukraine interpreter for APPG) re correspondence with Home Office Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire, the Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP. Exchanged New Year Good Wishes with MP’s and Peers on the APPG and their staff. Correspondence exchanged with APPG transcriber Mary Wedgwood in Maldives re the transcript from the December 2022 APPG meeting in relation to the DRAFT minutes. 2nd January Correspondence exchanged with APPG Adviser Tom Roche re Perth hotel fire, with three dead in a fire at the New County Hotel. 3rd January produced three months APPG activity report for Group MP’s/Peers and for colleagues in the Fire Sector. Written up DRAFT minutes from the 7th December 2022 APPG meeting and circulated to seventy MP’s and Peers and to the officers and speakers attending. Correspondence exchange with Peter Aldous MP re Government Consultation on Updating the Building Regulations' Fire Safety Guidance in England - Lee Rowley (England MPs). Confirmation notified from APPG members that the Group will be sending a response. Correspondence exchanged with Simon Ince and Nigel Talbot from UL International regarding changes in their organisation both in the UK and USA. The Group received correspondence from Alistair Brown MD (Angloco Fire Appliance builders UK) of his father’s death, and further notification shortly of the date for the funeral in Harrogate. (Angloco are currently the longest existing Fire Engine builders in the UK). 4th January notified APPG Advisers plus Simon Ince, Martin Boyd and others, of the details for the 25th January APPG meeting, being attended by DLUHC Minister Lee Rowley MP, whilst copying the DRAFT minutes from the 7th December 2022 meeting. Also updated speakers John Spence and Jon. O’Neill (Fire Sector Federation) re the APPG meeting at which they were speaking. Notice given to All seventy APPG members and the Group’s advisers in confirmation that DLUHC Minister Lee Rowley MP is attending the 25th January APPG meeting, and has been provided with a list of outstanding matters remaining unanswered and a list of questions for this meeting. The Group’s Fire Adviser/Hon. Sec. corresponded with the three Daughters of the late Sam Webb (RIBA Expert Fire Group) re attending Highgate Cemetery with Lord Hendy KC on the 13th April to lay his ‘ashes’, followed in the evening with a memorial service at the Royal Institute of British Architects where Ronnie King would speak (along with others) and pay tribute to Sam Webb’s work. The APPG corresponded with T McDermott (Former Chief Fire Officer of Derbyshire, APPG Adviser Tom Roche, the Fire Sector Federation (FSF) and Fire Protection Association (FPA), together with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) re Government’s consultation before Christmas on the height thresholds for NEW residential flats at which more than one staircase is required, plus the automatic sprinkler protection of NEW Care Homes, together with removing the national CLASSIFICATION of materials; then this subject will likely take up a good bit of the planned ‘virtual’ meeting being held on 11th January:**

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sprinklers-in-care-homes-removal-of-national-classes-and-staircases-in-residential-buildings**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sprinklers-in-care-homes-removal-of-national-classes-and-staircases-in-residential-buildings)**;**

**The APPG sought the thinking behind these organisations in their respective responses. 6th January APPG received confirmation of the responses from APPG Advisers Paul Bussey and Jane Duncan of RIBA as to their likely response to the DLUHC consultation on new care homes, single staircases in residential buildings and removal of National Classes. The APPG received Notification from the Brother of Martin Green (LFB firefighter and cancer victim) that a petition has reached 100,000 signatures for supporting firefighters to be recognised as being a special case from contracting toxic chemicals in the nature of their work. 7 Jan APPG received Notification from Tillie Muir Fire Brigades Union (FBU) that she is the new Political Liaison Officer, and would like to attend the 25th January APPG meeting (confirmed as ‘virtual’ access due to number expected and limited space in Room “S” Portcullis House. APPG Adviser Ronnie King corresponded with Martin Boyd – (Leaseholder/Commonhold Reform APPG) for clarification of its likely issues to raise when responding to the Building Safety Levy consultation with Government closing on 7th Feb 2023. APPG further corresponded with Mary Wedgwood re transcription and online co-sharing with her on 25th January from Maldives. 8th January Notified by T McDermott, Secretary of the National Fire Sprinkler (NFSN), of a successful fire safety campaign by tower block residents in Bristol, which has resulted in the council committing to £22.3 million of funding for fire safety measures and to install automatic fire sprinkler protection in every council tower block in the city! 9th January APPG Adviser & Hon. Sec. R King travelled to Westminster Parliament on first Day back after Christmas Recess. Met with a number of APPG MP’s and Peers to discuss forthcoming agenda for 25th January APPG meeting. Attended Commons Chamber DLUHC oral questions – Minister Lucy Frazer MP and others answering. APPG Provided security access letters to speakers and Advisers (non-passholders) for the APPG meeting in Portcullis House on 25th January. 11th January – Notice received from APPG Adviser Tom Roche of the Sheriff’s verdict from the Cameron House Hotel Fire in Loch Lomond Scotland, where two people died. Circulated to all APPG members. APPG notified NFSN Secretary T McDermott of the 40% of deaths figures from Grenfell in relation to vulnerability. APPG received correspondence from former British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association (Stewart Kidd) stating: “it's interesting that all the recommendations and observations re the Cameron House Fire in Scotland were already included by Historic Scotland’s 2012 Guide for Practitioners No 7 - Fire Safety Management in Traditional Buildings!**

**12th January APPG Chairman Bob Blackman CBE MP, forwarded a “FIRE AID” letter to Home Office Minister Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP, seeking and supporting FIRE AID’s bid for Government funding in support of its International work overseas, including UKRAINE. (which was asking for signatures by members of the APPG). APPG corresponded with retired Fire Chief Andrew Russell in relation to recent deaths of former colleagues in the Fire Service and related organisations. APPG notified by Adviser Tom Roche of a planned Business Sprinkler Alliance meeting on 27th January. Additionally notified of Loch Lomond verdict progress update:**

[**https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11624153/amp/Loch-Lomond-Fire-Sheriff-inquiry-says-sprinklers-mandatory.html**](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11624153/amp/Loch-Lomond-Fire-Sheriff-inquiry-says-sprinklers-mandatory.html)

[**https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/docs/default-source/cos-general-docs/pdf-docs-for-opinions/2023fai001.pdf?sfvrsn=44b8ad34\_1**](https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/docs/default-source/cos-general-docs/pdf-docs-for-opinions/2023fai001.pdf?sfvrsn=44b8ad34_1)

[**https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64236252**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64236252)

[**https://www.judiciary.scot/home/sentences-judgments/fai-determination-summaries/2023/01/11/simon-midgley-and-richard-john-dyson**](https://www.judiciary.scot/home/sentences-judgments/fai-determination-summaries/2023/01/11/simon-midgley-and-richard-john-dyson)

**16th January APPG notified “All-Party Notices’ Whips Office of the APPG meeting and outside attendees for 25th January meeting of the Group. 17th Jan. APPG corresponded with PS to DLUHC Minister Lee Rowley MP re removing the two items (which fall to the Home Officer Minister) for the 25th January meeting i.e. PEEPS and Fire Suppression in High Rise Premises. 18th January. All 70 MP’s and Peers on the APPG received correspondence seeking approval to add their signature to the APPG Chairman’s letter to Home Office Minister of State Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP requesting Govt. funding in support of the work of Fire Aid. 18th Jan APPG Adviser R King Corresponded with Margaret Ferrier MP re the incorrect answer given by DfE Minister Nick Gibb MP to her question as follows: In Monday’s (16th January 2023) oral answers to questions of the Secretary of State for Education (copy Hansard attached), a question from yourself was answered by the Minister of State for Education Nick Gibb MP as follows:**

**Margaret Ferrier MP (Rutherglen and Hamilton West) (Ind)**

**“The Government take the safety of schools very seriously, as the Minister said in response to an earlier question, so will Ministers reconsider mandating the fitting of sprinklers in new-build schools to minimise the risk posed by fires to buildings, equipment, pupils’ school work and people”?**

**Answered: Minister Nick Gibb MP**

 **“The hon. Lady will know that there is revised guidance; the new buildings bulletin has been issued after wide consultation and makes some changes to requirements for when sprinklers are to be installed in schools, particularly when the risk factor of the students in the school is high—for example, for children with special educational needs or residential schools”.**

**The answer from the Minister was not correct!! Building Bulletin 100 (Revised) Fire Safety Design Guide for new schools was released for public consultation on May 2021 and closed on 18th August 2021. The Department for Education has yet to publish the results of the Public Consultation, despite being asked to do so several times. The revised DRAFT Document BB100 is still in DRAFT form and hasn’t been issued, contrary to what the Minister has said in his answer. The APPG (Fire Safety & Rescue) submitted an extensive response to the consultation in August 2021, signed off by the late Sir David Amess MP, with the whole of the recognised Fire Sector rejecting the revised Document.**

**Since the Public consultation closed, the Chairman has exchanged correspondence with various DfE Parliamentary Under Secretaries of State and the Permanent Secretary, with the situation remaining unresolved. Despite being invited, DfE failed to send a Minister to the 7th December 2022 APPG meeting, and have offered nothing further since in response, and continue to dispute Zurich Municipal Insurance’s statistics, without bringing parties together for a ‘round table’ discussion at which the APPG would wish to be represented.**

**In releasing its public consultation in May 2021, the revised Guidance did not set any limit in area for a school building. (a single storey school could be a square mile in area without any fire suppression)!! There was no Regulatory Impact Assessment undertaken into pupil’s loss of education or attainment as a consequence of school fires. This would be implicit in any other Government consultation, the APPG has been involved with. Lastly Government’s own Fire Adviser wasn’t consulted on this revised guidance. And DfE don’t appear to have received Fire Safety advice.**

**The Education Minister should firstly correct his misleading answer to Margaret Ferrier MP’s question, as the statement: “new buildings bulletin has been issued after wide consultation”. Is incorrect as it hasn’t been issued!!**

**Once this error has been corrected, the APPG will once more look to get all sides to a ‘round table’ to seek clarification on the statistics and findings by both DfE (through RPA) and Zurich Municipal Insurance, with the National Fire Chiefs Council and Local Government also represented. 19th Jan. APPG Letter sent to Rt, Hon. Chris Philp MP signed by APPG Chair & Members supporting Fire Aid Funding. 20th Jan APPG corresponded with Tillie Muir FBU Political Liaison, re attendance at next APPG meeting via “ZOOM”, 20th Jan. Security letters sent to (non pass-holders) Speakers and Advisers attending 25th Jan APPG meeting, 20th Jan Consulted with D Davis Fire Sector Federation (FSF) and others re response to the “Home Office Guide to fire doors to assist Responsible Persons. The guide reflects the duties made under the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 at Regulation 10 relating to fire doors, which came into force on 23 January 2023. Government Consultation : “Sprinklers in Care Homes and Single Staircase Buildings.” 21st Jan the APPG corresponded with Lord John Hendy KC and Louise Christian (solicitor) re attendance at the late Sam Webb’s Memorial and Ashes Scattering at Highgate Cemetery on 13th April, followed by RIBA Service in Sam’s honour later in the day. APPG corresponded with Caterina Boico (Ukraine) re attending Parliament on 24th January for further meeting on Aid to Ukraine. 23 Jan. APPG corresponded with Rebecca Aylott, Policy and Public Affairs Officer at National Ass’n. of Funeral Directors and Steve Vallance LFB Interim Public Affairs Officer. re attending APPG meeting (arranged online via ZOOM). 25th January APPG received Added government response to key building information and parts of building consultation sections. APPG meeting held in Portcullis house attended by Minister Lee Rowley MP, John Spencer Chair FSF, Jon O’Neill Board Member FSF and MD of the FPA. Speaking on the National Fire Strategy proposal. Matters also raised by Mick Whitley MP re a fire alarm operation in Birkenhead which was unable to be silenced for 5 hours! (minutes available on the APPG website).**

**26th Jan. APPG exchanged correspondence with Mary Wedgwood re transcribing minutes of APPG meeting. 27th Jan Correspondence received via APPG Chairman from Matt Wrack Gen. Sec. FBU re “Excess cancer mortality and incidence in Firefighters”. With a request for himself and Professor Anna Stec.UCLAN to address the APPG at its next meeting. 28th Jan. APPG corresponded with Peter Holland HM Chief Inspector (Crown Premises) and former CFOA President Phil Toase re funeral arrangements for Bill Brown (Angloco). It was agreed that APPG Adviser Ronnie King OBE would represent the Group at the Service. 29th January APPG corresponded with T McDermott and T Roche re DLUHC Secretary of State Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP interview with ‘Sophie Ridge on Sunday’ re his forthcoming statement on Building Safety. 30th Jan 2023 APPG Adviser and Hon. Sec. attended Houses of Parliament to listen to the Statement from the Sec. of State for Levelling Up, the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP; where he updated the House on the Government’s progress in making buildings safe. “It is a basic requirement of any civilised society that people should feel safe in their own homes, but for too many people for far too long, that has not been the case.. Those who built our homes did not build them well enough. Those who made the materials that contributed to the construction of those homes often made them unsafe; at times, knowingly so”. “Those who were to check the work undertaken did not always check thoroughly enough. Of course, those who own the buildings have sometimes managed them so poorly that people have been left unsafe, and too many of those owners have still shirked their obligations to make people safe”.**

**FEBRUARY 2023 –**

**1st February 2023 – APPG received a copy of HOL Research Services Magazine “The Library” February edition. Registered for use of HOL Parliamentary Library for Research. APPG Adviser R King assisted interpreter Caterina Boico from Ukraine to prepare a letter to Home Office Minister of Crime, Policing and the Fire Service regarding taking a message back to the Ukraine Interior Ministry as she was shortly returning home to Ukraine. As a follow up to the 7th Dec APPG meeting, she was reminding Minister Philp of the Helicopter Crash in Brovary which killed the present Minister Denys Monastyrsky, together with his first Deputy Minister and State Secretary. APPG corresponded with Chris Pateman Engineered Panels in Construction (EPIC) re the role of the APPG in such as large-scale roofing systems, where concerns have been raised for some time about the growth of retro-fitted solar PV on commercial and industrial buildings. Not least because these panels are NOT currently regulated as ‘building products’ but only as electrical appliances. Additionally comparative performance of insulating substrates under solar PV panels. These things, like lithium batteries, somewhat defy conventional fire-fighting approaches.**

**APPG received query from Danielle Gregory (Tower Blocks UK) into the frequency of Fire Risk Assessments for London Council owned and managed high rise blocks.**

**APPG Adviser R King wrote to London Fire Brigade (LFB) for comment/response. APPG also had guidance on this matter from Adviser T Roche and FSF Secretary Dennis Davis. 2nd Feb ‘Flagship' special school in Stockport due to open this year hit by devastating fire – note from T Roche – circulated APPG members. APPG Adviser R King exchanged correspondence with Steve Vallance, Public Affairs Officer (interim) – LFB re documents he needed following the 25th Jan APPG meeting. – (Provided them). 3rd Feb – Corresponded with Sebastian O’Kelly – Leasehold Knowledge Partnership re Sec. of State Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP’s admission that regulation failures in part caused Grenfell; clears path to final resolution of the building safety crisis. Sec. of State Michael Gove raised his son and daughter minutes from Grenfell Tower. Five days after the fire that destroyed the west London high rise, he returned, walking around its blackened husk. The remains of some of the 72 people who were killed, 18 of them children, were still inside.**

**DLUHC Sec. of State Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP vows to scrap ‘feudal’ leasehold system this year (2023). He has pledged to bring forward laws to scrap most “feudal” leaseholds in England this year.**

**APPG Adviser R King corresponded further with Baroness Brinton re Barts. NHS Trust Hospital, following a response from the Assistant Commissioner (Fire Safety) London Fire Brigade, which explains that temporary fire safety measures were agreed and put in place to support the opening of two floors at the hospital during the COVID pandemic, until after the peak of the pandemic. Thereafter it would appear that Barts. NHS Trust determined the hospital’s own business needs, which didn’t require the continuation of the six wards; and therefore no further consultation with the Fire Brigade was felt necessary) The APPG has now received a response from the Assistant Commissioner (Fire Safety) London Fire Brigade, which explains that temporary fire safety measures were agreed and put in place to support the opening of two floors at the hospital during the COVID pandemic, until after the peak of the pandemic. Thereafter it would appear that Barts NHS Trust determined the hospital’s own business needs, which didn’t require the continuation of the six wards; and therefore no further consultation with the Fire Brigade was felt necessary. 4th Feb. APPG corresponded with Sebastian O’Kelly (LKP) re the statement following Sunday’s extensive media coverage which does appear to be a significant step forward from Sec. of State DLUHC, Rt. Hon. Michael Gove.MP. He agreed that provided the Government doesn’t ‘run out of road’ before the General Election. It was discussed at the APPG. APPG corresponded with Dan Quinn Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Delivery) re his request to give a presentation to APPG ref: “The Economic and Social Value of Fire & Rescue Services”. Which he has given to the last Fire Conference. – It was agreed to agenda for the March APPG meeting. 4th Feb APPG Adviser R King consulted with FSF and Leasehold Knowledge Partnership (APPG) Martin Boyd re Government Consultations on “Building Safety Directors”, “Building Safety Levy”, and “Sprinklers in Care Homes, Removal of National Classes and Staircases in Residential Buildings”. Agreed with Martin Boyd APPG Leaseholder Group, to work with each APPG on the other consultations so we use our joint skill sets to best effect. APPG corresponded with Damien Jensan re Kennington Park Square - Cladding Remediation, and Adviser R King consulted with Martin Boyd to give advice, which resulted in Barrett Homes having “stepped back” from using it’s own ‘Clerk of Works’ 5th Feb considered another Government consultation on DRAFT “Summary Sanctions Guide”. Consulted with NFCC and others before “draft” response prepared for APPG reply: “Enforcement and Sanctions for Non-Compliance”. 6th/7th Feb APPG Adviser R King travelled to Harrogate to attend funeral of WT Brown, former MD of Angloco Fire Engine Builders representing the APPG. Separately held meeting with Home Office Chief Inspector Crown Premises P Holland and former CFOA President Phil Toase. 7th Feb APPG corresponded with D Davis Executive Officer at FSF re: “Building Safety Directors”, English ADB consultation. -https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sprinklers-in-care-homes-removal-of-national-classes-and-staircases-in-residential-buildings/sprinklers-in-care-homes-removal-of-national-classes-and-staircases-in-residential-buildings;**

**And Welsh consultation. Including the requirement for automatic fire suppression systems in children’s homes. 8th Feb R King travelled to Houses of Parliament – PMQ’s and visit of Ukraine President Zelensky. APPG Adviser received Invitation received to ABI Annual Conference. 9th Feb. Consulted with APPG Adviser Mike Wood re Government Ministerial changes. Regarding the changes affecting the reshuffle, the only change at DLUHC is that Rachel Maclean MP has replaced Lucy Frazer MP as the new Minister of State for Housing. Lucy Frazer has taken over as Sec of State at Culture, Media and Sport. DLUHC Minister Lee Rowley, whom we had at the last APPG meeting remains as Minister for Building Safety and The Building Regulations, regarding the OPSS, this remains as part of BEIS with Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Incumbent Kemi Badenoch taking it over since 7 February 2023. Michelle Donelan MP, who previously headed up the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has been appointed secretary of state of the new science and tech-focused ministry. DCMS loses its digital brief to focus on culture, media and sport, with Lucy Frazer taking on responsibility for the slimmed down department. (as previously mentioned). APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Jane Duncan RIBA re Commemorative evening for Sam Webb at RIBA in April;. And Highgate Cemetery interment of ashes. 13th Feb. Correspondence with Jon O’Neill MD of the FPA re FPA’s ongoing financial support to the APPG. Circulated DRAFT minutes and associated documents to APPG members and attendees/speakers from 25th Jan 2023 meeting. 14th Feb APPG Adviser R King attended Fire Sector Federation Forum meeting via ‘virtual’ log-in. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with APPG Construction Products Testing Adviser Mike Wood reference BS 476 parts 20 and 22, which have already been circulated the APPG with its likely response (except for the proposal to remove the BS 476 classification reference, and replacing it with the British Standards version of the European Classification. The consultation closes on the 17th March 2023, so APPG Adviser R King would need to brief members with the APPG final proposed response by the 10th March, allowing them a week to comment. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with D Davis ahead of his ‘stepping down’ from Executive Officer FSF. And being replaced by Steve McGuirk. 16th Feb - ACO Dan Quinn (Shropshire Fire) provided correspondence to APPG Bob Blackman re attendance the APPG to discuss: “The Economic and Social Value of Fire & Rescue Services”. 19th Feb APPG corresponded with Steve McGuirk, who will be taking over the role as Executive Officer to the Fire Sector Federation in April. APPG also Corresponded with Daniel Chaudrey Electrical Safety First who is seeking APPG Members’ support for Electrical Safety Checks for Vulnerable Consumers, Discussed with Chairman and Members who were all asked to consider the proposal and offer a view. All views subsequently considered and offered to Electrical Safety First. 20th Feb APPG Adviser R King attended Houses of Parliament – Questions to Secretary of State for Levelling Up and Topical Questions:**

**Sec. of State DLUHC Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP: including:**

**Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP:**

**“What recent progress he has made on cladding and non-cladding remediation for residential buildings”?**

**Dame Meg Hillier MP:**

**“What steps he is taking with Cabinet colleagues to help ensure that residents are adequately protected from increases in insurance premiums caused by remedial works.”**

**Mike Kane MP: “What steps he is taking with Cabinet colleagues to help protect leaseholders in low-rise apartment blocks from increases in building insurance costs caused by cladding issues”.**

**Answers: The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Rt. Hon.Michael Gove MP:**

**“Developers are lining up to sign our contract to remediate approximately 1,500 buildings. Some 95% of those buildings with the most dangerous Grenfell-style cladding have already been remediated or have work under way. The number of buildings that are being fixed by the building safety fund has doubled in the past year. The pilot for our new mid-rise scheme is making good progress ahead of its full opening in the coming months”.**

**Further Question - Sir Julian Lewis MP**

**“Does the Secretary of State recognise that issues like the cladding scandal being foisted on innocent leaseholders will continue until there is fundamental reform of the leasehold system? I know he has plans to do that. When does he think they might be put into effect”?**

**Answer Michael Gove: “ My right hon. Friend is absolutely right. We hope, in the forthcoming King’s Speech, to introduce legislation to fundamentally reform the system. Leaseholders, not just in this case but in so many other cases, are held to ransom by freeholders. We need to end this feudal form of tenure and ensure individuals have the right to enjoy their own property fully”.**

**APPG correspondence with Adviser T Roche re comments by Charles-Elie Romeyer, DLUHC noting that R King had commented at the APPG meeting with Minister Rowley, on the lack of advisers on working groups. He is aware that T Roche sits on the AD B Working Group, currently under BRAC. So his point was that T Roche is an adviser and therefore this was not true. He was reminded however that T Roche was appointed to the ADB working Group before becoming an APPG adviser last year. 22 Feb APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Adviser T Roche when he was checking to see if DfE Minister Nick Gibb MP had corrected his statement to Margaret Ferrier MP as there is nothing in Hansard. He asked if Margaret was aware that the Minister gave her the wrong information in his response? (subsequently clarified that she was not aware and she has asked for the APPG’s assistance in correcting this). 23 Feb corresponded with D Davis FSF re holding an event sometime in the Houses of Parliament for Fire Sector Federation members. Possibly chaired by Baroness Brinton. (followed up). Steve McGuirk (FSF) requested and arranged “Teams” meeting to discuss Lakanal House and APPG involvement.**

**APPG Notified of Government consultation to respond to: “Minimum service levels for fire and rescue services.” Notified that Dr Philippa Whitford MP has been reviewing her commitments, and unfortunately she realises that she has to step back from her membership on the APPG on Fire Safety and Rescue. Chairman noted and SNP requested for a replacement member. 24th Feb Advised of death of former Chief Fire Office Bob Yuill of Gwent Fire Service . APPG Adviser R King wrote to his widow Jan Yuill. APPG Received video footage of Ukraine soldiers on the front line in conflict from Ukraine interpreter Caterina Boico. 27th Feb APPG Adviser R King attended Parliament to collect his replacement Parliamentary Pass. Also arranged for replacement/repair of his Parliamentary laptop. 28th Feb APPG Adviser R King invited to attend the next Lord Speaker's Members’ Forum on Tuesday 21 March from 1 – 2pm in the Robing Room.**

**MARCH 2023**

**1st March APPG corresponded with Home Office Minister of State Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP via his two Private Secretaries and Diary Secretary, re attendance at next APPG meeting for update on matters raised at the 7th December meeting including Ukraine and Fire Aid Funding. Also APPG wrote to PS for Minister Lee Rowley MP re his attendance at the 25th January APPG meeting. 2nd March – Adviser T Roche reported a Major Fire - Hospital – Wexford – Republic of Ireland. Extensive evacuation of patients and wards. (circulated APPG) 3rd March APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Melissa Harrison – FPA re management issues. Consulted APPG chairman and confirmed item on agenda for 29th March meeting relating to “Excess cancer mortality and incidence in Firefighters”. 4th March Wrote to Alasdair Perry, new Chief Exec of BAFSA offering the APPG’s good wishes and congratulations on his appointment. Following his email to APPG Adviser R King, by way of introduction. Agreed “Teams” meeting for 9th March. APPG Chairman and myself notified of Dr. Philippa Whitford MP’s no longer able to continue as APPG Member. Alternative sought to replace. (Hannah Bardell MP subsequently replacing Dr Philippa Whitford).**

**7th March International Fire And Safety Journal (IFSJ) article on: ”The role of a fire suppression system” and “High rise firefighting: From practical to tactical” .Sad news announced of the passing of FPA Managing Director Jonathan O’Neill OBE. Notified APPG members and colleagues. 8th March Notified of The King and The Queen Consort to visit Parliament on 2nd May (possible invitation for APPG Adviser R King). APPG Adviser R King attended Houses of Parliament to change over laptop and to listen to Debate in House of Lords re “Strikes – minimum service levels. – Lord John Hendy KC participated. 9th March “Virtual” meeting with Alasdair Perry, new BAFSA Chief Executive. Provided link to 10th March NFSN Teams meeting and Government Consultation response to sprinklers-in-care-homes-removal-of-national-classes-and-staircases-in-residential-buildings. APPG Adviser R King notified of death of Former Chief Fire Officer South Wales FRS, Brian Fraser. 11th March APPG adviser R King notified of planned meeting with Boris Johnson on 14th March at 11.15am in St. Stephens Tower – Parliament to receive an oil painting from Ukraine for all his support to the Country. 14th March APPG advised of the late Jonathan O’Neill’s funeral taking place on Thursday 23rd March at 11.00, St James Church, Harvington, WR11 8PB. APPG Co Vice Chair, Baroness Brinton asked to provide a submission in the FPA Book of condolence to be established. APPG Adviser R King would represent the Group at the funeral.**

**APPG responded to D Davis FSF re Booking a Room in the House of Lords for a FSF event regarding Developing a National Fire Strategy. Optional dates provided and R King would liaise with HOL Room Bookings and a sponsoring Peer to find a suitable and available date and time. 15th March. Government announcement - Consultation covering the proposed changes to building regulations under part 4 of the Building Safety Act 2022. - Change made:**

**Added Consultation analysis of feedback and government response to the consultation sections on the registration of higher-risk buildings. APPG Adviser R King confirmed with Katherine O’Riordan (Sir Peter Bottomley MP’s Office Manager re The next APPG meeting to be held in Lords Committee Room Number 3A (Committee Corridor), from 2.30pm to 3.30pm on Wednesday 29th March 2023. Hon. Sec and Adviser R King will be sending out the agenda and papers. APPG Advisers liaised with T McDermott (NFSN) in its response to the APPG submission based on National Classes, which significantly varied from the other response by the Fire sprinkler Sector. APPG Adviser.Hon. Sec. corresponded with Simon Ince UL re his providing an input at the 29th March APPG meeting (re the US Research on firefighter cancers), after FBU Gen. Sec Matt Wrack and Prof. Anna Stec have spoken, outlining that UL (US) also has Research papers on fire fighter cancers, to which we will give members the link to, following the meeting, (and if possible what the conclusions are). Similarly when the Rt. Hon. Dame Maria Miller MP or Andy Slaughter MP speak about Lithium-ion battery fires, to ask Simon Ince to briefly mention that UL (US) also has Research (freely available on its website) about this subject. 16th March APPG notified via FSF Basecamp of Government Consultations Newsletters and Media Releases. Notified by Leasehold Knowledge Partnership that Galliard and Lendlease were quick to get leaseholders on the hook for building safety bills, now they won’t sign the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP’s agreement to pay up!! Circulated to members and relevant colleagues. APPG Notified that “Fire Sprinkler International 2023 is taking place in Amsterdam, 31 May-1 June and is close to being fully booked. (no attendance from APPG) Corresponded with Mike Wood re his concerns over the Government position on Product Testing and on removal of National classification. The Group’s response must call for an opportunity for Mike Wood to be heard at a face to face meeting with the Minister before this proceeds. He won’t be attending the next APPG meeting on the 29th March but APPG Hon. Sec R King will seek to secure his attendance at the April/May meeting when the DLUHC Minister is likely to attend. Meanwhile the Group’s position on the removal of National Classification is as follows: “Qu. 13 Do you agree that national classifications for reaction to fire should be removed from AD B?**

**Answer: “Yes. We agree.- The APPPG has long held an objective to see Class ‘O’ (intended for internal wall linings) removed from AD B guidance as applied to facades and materials used on external walls. We have the view that the classification scheme based on EN 13501-1 is clearer and easier to understand than the reaction to fire classifications that come from BS 476-7, BS 476-11, and BS 476-3 in particular. And we would like to see a clearer distinction between surface spread of flame (for example, as applies to linings and surface finishes) and fire propagation by the bulk burning of more substantial materials such as cladding, wall insulation and cavity insulation materials. We are made aware of the longstanding potential issue with metal-covered sandwich panels when a basic surface spread of flame test on its own cannot possibly classify the body material”.**

**“We understand that the EN 13501-1 classification system provides a better way of classifying materials than is possible using the BS 476 series for reaction to fire, especially concerning combustibility and non-combustibility. In particular it removes confusions possible over the unquantified "limited combustibility" term. This is one area we think where the EN system will enhance safety”.**

**Qu. 14 “Do you agree that the national classifications for fire resistance should be removed from AD B”?**

**Answer: “Disagree. But a qualified disagreement: not immediately at this time, and not before there has been reference to the UK sectors and their representative organisations who are most likely to be directly affected by the change. We see that a wider consideration is necessary before a decision can be made”.**

**Please see the APPG replies to Qu's 15 to 18. We are aware that fire resistance is different from the situation as applies to reaction to fire testing, because both BS 476 and EN tests are considered to both work effectively, and especially that some product types will be more affected than others. We are aware that the BS 476 fire resistance test has been extensively used in the UK, has formed the backbone of a great deal of official guidance, and has not been found wanting in what it does as a test in sufficiently and appropriately differentiating materials and products one from another.**

**Qu 15 If you disagree what evidence can you provide that outlines why the national classifications are still required.**

**Answer: “We reference concerns expressed by informed industry groupings. For example, we refer to presentations made by the Association of Specialist Fire Protection who have reviewed the situation for many of the passive fire protection product areas that there is a significant level of reliance on BS 476 fire resistance testing (more in some sectors than others). The Fire Sector Federation has also raised a similar point. We are also aware that some trade sector product representative organisations have raised particular concerns for their areas of activity in the UK. That applies in particular to the fire door sectors represented by the British Woodworking Federation (BWF), The Association of Specialist Door Manufacturers (ASDMA), the Composite Door Manufacturers (CDM), and the association for door and window hardware the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI) - all of whom we understand have concerns. We are aware as well that the Fire Protection Federation (FPA) has some qualified reservations as well.”**

**Qu 16 “Do you agree that there should be a transitional period of 12 months”?**

**We agree that for some sectors that is unlikely to be an issue. On the other hand, we have been advised that this transition period will definitely not be enough, and that a longer period of some years will be necessary in consideration of the commitment that has been made in some sectors to the British standard, consistently over a number of decades. This applies we understand to fire doors in general across all types and sectors, but especially to timber fire doors and to the particular architectural design door sector within the UK's manufacturing base (which may well be seriously affected as a special case).**

**Qu 17 If you disagree, how long should the transition period be and what is your evidence to support a longer or shorter transition period?**

**“The Group is strongly advised that the specialist architectural fire door manufacturers and bespoke architectural fire door design sector will be severely challenged by the change, and may well be lost if this proposal applies to bespoke architectural fire doors. If there is to be a transition then that should be managed in accordance with the means available to the affected sector and the extent of the challenge they face. The period we are advised needs to be at least 5 years, preferably up to 10 years for some parts of the sector, in view of the hundreds of tests that would need to be re-tested from a new start.**

**The main factors explained to us are: a) The magnitude of the necessary re-testing programmes which require doing several hundreds of tests, in view of the commitment to BS testing that has been the case to date. We are advised that can amount to a major cost of some millions of Pounds, which cannot be sustainable over a short time of just 1 year. b) The low level capability to date of the UK's fire resistance testing organisations to respond in a timely way to requests for testing. We are advised that lead times from booking a test date to receiving the finished test report for use can be up to 2 years from reported experiences over the last few years. Demand is already high. And the removal of BS 476 would magnify that demand in one go with a flood of new test requests. c) Not all products are covered by a harmonised EN product norm, and without a hEN then the product cannot be classified. That applies in particular to the necessary hEN for internal doors covering fire resistance and smoke control. So even with a test result the system does not allow an internal fire door to be properly classified in accordance with EN 13501-2. The failure to achieve an appropriate hEN for internal fire doors goes back at least 20 years, with no sign of significant progress, yet. d) One issue is that the standard as it exists for fire doors includes a particular limiting product definition that excludes assemblies from parts from the norm, and therefore which excludes those routes to site beyond the possibility of product classification. We understand the inclusion of assemblies needs a new standard applicable for the UK in order to classify the assembly route through the market. That needs to take place and will take significantly more than 1 year to bring to agreement and publishing based on the normal timescale for development of standards. Some key door system components are also not covered by any EN product standards, so they cannot be separately and individually classified for use.”**

 **Qu 18: “Please outline any concerns you have about the withdrawal of the national classifications with regards to fire resistance including potential impacts, such as the fire door industry”.**

**Answer: “We have major concerns for the specialist fire door manufacturing and design sector, especially the bespoke part of the sector that serves the UK's architectural specification and design sector for buildings which we understand could face a threat to their ongoing viability given the major upheaval they face and the massive associated costs that they report are likely as a consequence. We take those concerns seriously, that UK manufacturers may well be badly affected, also that the concern they have of the risk to the continuity of the sector as it is currently operating. Clearly, we would be concerned to see the loss of core expertise to the UK, with damage to a significant local and traditional UK manufacturing sector”.**

**“Furthermore, our adviser with expertise in this area and close contacts to the specialist and bespoke architectural door sector over many years, relates that The specialist architectural fire door manufacturers are incensed by the misinformation that is being spread by those who do not have the necessary first hand knowledge, nor who have contacts with them. The sector is not being properly considered they think. We have no reason to doubt what the Group’s adviser is saying, as he has dedicated experience and knowledge in this field and has never previously been proven wrong when giving such advice”.**

**“We at least ask in view of this feedback that an opportunity is given for the Group’s adviser to meet with Department officials, in order to discuss and clarify this particular and emerging potential crisis over the removal of National Classes, as part of this consultation - to what could be seen as a valuable UK asset of expertise and manufacturing capability”.**

**“Our adviser goes on to say that the UK system based on third-party product and process certification, extensive testing, use of expert judgment (with informed risk assessment) and Field of Application reports, with a focus on design, is superior to the EN system for EU Community harmonisation which ‘does not do the job’ as required in the UK, now, following the Building Safety Act. That especially concerns the Act's new focus on safety of products in use, and safety critical, which is expected to apply to fire doors in particular. Special consideration and accommodation may be necessary for the specialist and bespoke architectural door sector in view of the challenges they face in maintaining the wide ranging capability to offer flexibility in design, as required by the several architectural specification sectors where extensive capability in product design is an essential prerequisite”.**

**17th March APPG Adviser R King was given speaker briefing for Tribute to the late Sam Webb where he was speaking and also at the Internment of Ashes at Highgate Cemetery London on 13th April.**

**19th March APPG Hon. Sec. sent out agendas and all papers for 29th March APPG meeting including ‘ZOOM’ links from Maldives, Greece and Ukraine. 20th March spoke R King spoke with Radha Bedi (Netlix) re a Television Production about Grenfell. Declined to appear, but gave clarification. APPG Adviser R King discussed with Mike Wood unconfirmed speculation whether the building regulations division is staying in DLUHC, or moving to the Building Safety Regulator in HSE. 21st March APPG Adviser Hon. Sec. corresponded with David Owens (Hawsons) re Annual APPG Accounts and 22nd march with Melissa Harrison re Baroness Brinton contribution to Book of Condolence for the late Jon O’Neill. Adviser R King corresponded with Howard Passey Deputy Director FPA. 22nd March travelled to Worcestershire for Funeral of J O’Neill on 23rd March.. 23rd March Attended funeral of J O’Neill at Harvington Church and afterwards at Arrow, Alcester. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with T Roche and T McDermott in regard to a question raised at the recent LGA Fire conference by the Chairman of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Councillor Bob Rudd, and answered by Home Office Minister Rt. Hon. Chris Philp. APPG Corresponded with Claire Hoyland and Jim Fitzpatrick re Fire Aid and Ukraine Interior Ministry joining next APPG meeting by video link. 26th March APPG Hon. Sec. Discussed Transcription of Minutes for 29th March APPG meeting with Mary Wedgwood. 28th March met with former PM the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP in Westminster with Caterina Boico (Ukraine) who had painted his picture in oils and was presenting it to him, whilst he signed Ukranian flags for brave soldiers and Commanders in the field.**

**29th March APPG meeting HOL - Westminster – speakers Matt Wrack FBU, Prof Anna Stec UCLAN, Dan Quinn ACO Shropshire, and Simon Ince UL International. Provided email and postal addresses for CFO Rob Barber to write a letter (via the Minister’s Diary Sec. and Personal Sec. to Home Office Minster the Rt. Hon. Chris Philp on behalf of the NFSN following the Minister’s recent attendance at the LGA’s Fire Conference; where a question was asked by the Chairman of Cheshire FRA, Cllr Rudd. re bringing English standards on automatic fire sprinkler protection in England to those of Scotland; particularly in relation to Schools, Care Homes and High rise buildings..**

**APPG Chairman Received letter from Home Office Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire, the Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP, who will be attending the Group’s next meeting. His letter covered the following issues:**

**“I am very grateful to you and the APPG for your commitment to supporting the people of Ukraine at this desperately difficult time. I am committed to doing whatever I can to support not only you, but also the State emergency services of Ukraine”.**

**“As you will be aware, in 2022, from March to October, we arranged for four convoys, including nearly 70 fire and rescue vehicles and more than 150,000 items of equipment, kit, and PPE to support rescue workers on the frontline in Ukraine. This comprised the majority of the surplus equipment available from across the whole fire and rescue sector at that time. To continue to support these efforts, I have asked my officials to work with National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) to quickly identify and dispatch to Ukraine any remaining surplus Fire and Rescue equipment”. “I understand from the NFCC, however, that given the scale of last year’s convoys there is less surplus equipment currently available. We will nevertheless encourage FRSs nationally to identify what can be donated for delivery this Spring”.**

**“However, I am pleased to say that have secured 116 sets of PPE (procured in preparation for expected periods of firefighter industrial action) which we will be donating to Ukraine, and they will form part of the overall package of FRS donated equipment we will send. FIREAID was a critical partner to last year’s successful aid efforts. Unfortunately, there is currently no budget to support core funding for FIREAID. However, I recognise the charity’s excellent work in delivering vital fire and rescue equipment worldwide and in particular to Ukraine so I will keep the funding situation under review.”**

**“Finally, on the potential fire risks of e-bikes and e-scooters, the Home Office is part of a cross-UK Government working group looking at issues associated with lithium-ion batteries, chaired by the Scottish Government. It is vitally important that those developing guidance for use, storage and safety of personal light electric vehicles engage with the NFCC to factor in the experience and expertise of those in the sector. This work considering the fire safety of e-scooters and e-bikes is being led by the Department of Transport and the Office of Product Safety and Standards”.**

**29th March - DLUHC Secretary of State Michael Gove MP has written to Kingspan asking it to meet him before Easter to discuss how much money the products firm would be prepared to pay for fire safety remediation. (following record profits).**

**31st March DLUHC Secretary of State Michael Gove MP ‘turned his guns’ on Arconic in ramping up pressure on manufacturers to ‘put their hands in their pockets’ to help pay for cladding remediation work, in the wake of the Grenfell Tower Fire tragedy.**

**APRIL 2023**

**1st April APPG Chairman received a letter from LFB Deputy Fire Commissioner that London Fire Brigade (LFB) is seeing a growing number of fires caused by lithium batteries, particularly electric powered personal vehicles (EPPVs), such as e-bikes and e-scooters. He stated that Whilst these modes of transport can provide a cheaper, sustainable mode of transport for Londoners, fires involving e-bikes and e-scooters can be particularly dangerous given the size of the batteries involved and the fact they often take place in people’s home. So far this year, on average, London Fire Brigade has been called to an e-bike or e-scooter fire once every two days – a 60 per cent increase in the rate of these**

**fires compared to the same period as last year. In 2022, LFB attended 87 e-bike and 29 e-scooter fires, a total of 116 fires. On New Year’s Day LFB sadly also attended its first fatal fire where the cause was recorded as a regular bicycle which had been modified using a ‘conversion kit’. APPG agreed to leave a ‘slot’ open for LFB to give a short presentation when Home Office Minister Rt. Hon. Chris Philp attends the next APPG meeting. APPG Adviser wrote further to the widow of former CFO Bob Yuill who was Chief Fire Officer of Gwent prior to Local Government Reorganisation in 1996. 2nd April APPG corresponded with Steve Vallance LFB re discrepancies in the frequency of how often high rise FIRE RISK Assessments are being carried out, this seems to vary from council to council. It was recalled that the former LGA guidance previously recommended Fire Risk Assessments be carried out annually, however there doesn't seem to be any specific points on this in the new guidance. APPG received correspondence from Terry Edge (former BEISS employee) re Flame Retardants in Furniture and its continued use. The Group’s Fire Adviser responded as previously, that the APPG had previously considered this a number of times, both in writing and at meetings; and also passed on the concerns of T Edge to the OPSS, who had outlined its course of action. 3rd April APPG Fire Adviser corresponded with Danielle Gregory Tower Blocks UK re the apparent discrepancies in how Fire Risk Assessments are being carried out. 4th April APPG Fire Adviser corresponded with former MP Jim Fitzpatrick in relation to a ‘backup’ Peer for the 24th April Fire Sector Federation Event in the House of Lords from 2pm to 5pm, which included “Developing further a National Fire Strategy”**

**The Government Opposition Chief Whip in the Lords (Lord Kennedy) had agreed to ‘step-in’ should either Baroness Brinton or Lord Hendy KC have to withdraw at the last minute. 5th April APPG received an article from Stewart Kidd re Lithium-Ion Batteries which he felt was worth bringing to the attention of the Group. It will be brought forward when Home Office Minister next meets the APPG. 6th April - Answer given to Written Question to Dept. for Education: “Lord Best: To ask His Majesty's Government when they will publish a response to their consultation Building Bulletin 100: Fire Safety Design for Schools, which closed on 18 August 2021”. Answered by Baroness Barran: “The Department takes fire safety in schools very seriously. This is why the consultation draft of ‘BB100: Fire Safety Design for schools’ proposed multiple interventions to improve the already high fire safety standards of school buildings. The Department has been reviewing and evaluating the evidence submitted before, during, and post consultation, and will publish the response to the consultation and updated guidance in due course.’ APPG Adviser T Roche drew attention to a legal article re Beechmere which will be of special interest to Dr Kieran Mullan MP. It highlights one of the key items that is understand to be ‘on the table’, which is the matter of No Sprinkler Protection. The owners are pushing this point of not being advice!!.**

**APPG Fire Adviser R King prepared for Sarah Benjamin (nee Webb) and her sisters, a DRAFT Tribute he was giving re the late Sam Webb, ahead of an Internment of ashes at Highgate Cemetery on 13th April followed by a second Tribute from himself to give later in that evening at RIBA. 8th April APPG Fire Adviser corresponded with Ms Caterina Boico (who was in Ukraine) relating to some Ukranian flags having been signed by former PM Boris Johnson to present to Brave Soldiers and Commanders who have excelled in the field of conflict.**

**9th April APPG Advisers exchanged correspondence with APPG Adviser Mike Wood re the confusion and complications that arise because of the different Ministries and authorities now involved in fire safety. The subject of fragmentation was referred to. It seemed that never was there a better time to have a central coordinating fire safety group in Government! As it Seems to have just become even more complicated. The Technical Policy Team in DLUHC has moved into HSE/BSR. There appeared to have been no announcement - no explanation - that the APPG was aware of. Unclear whether they take responsibility for Approved Doc B with them? If so, how does that ‘square’ now for Ministerial responsibility for the Building Regulations? HSE doesn’t have a Ministerial responsibility!!**

**It is also understood that DLUHC has brought in a new Deputy Director for fire safety? But not sure under what brief. A meeting was being arranged with Home Office responsible official Matthew Armer on 28th April for clarification to be attended by R King, Mike Wood and Martin Boyd (APPG Leasehold Common hold Reform). 10th April APPG Fire Adviser R King corresponded with Rachel Kirkley, Hannah Showler, Sarah Benjamin and Jane Duncan re Order of service at both the Internment of Ashes and RIBA Tribute for both Events on 13th April relating to the late Sam Webb. 11th April APPG notified that Nick Ross (formerly BBC Crimewatch) has been appointed as independent chair of the NFCC. 12th April Notice of Grenfell Settlement by “Inside Housing”** [**https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-65248544**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-65248544)**; and** [**https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/settlement-reached-for-900-claimants-in-grenfell-civil-case-81123**](https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/settlement-reached-for-900-claimants-in-grenfell-civil-case-81123)**;**

**13th April APPG Fire Adviser R King travelled to London – Highgate Cemetery to give Tribute at Internment of Ashes for the late Sam Webb, RIBA Architect. Attended by Lord Hendy KC, Solicitor Louise Christian, Arnold Tarling, Hannah Brack, Tony Bird (Thirty five attendees) then later 6.00pm at RIBA HQ in Portland Place for approx. for 80 people including Peter Apps Inside Housing and others in the Sector. – a variation Tribute. APPG Fire Adviser R King corresponded with Harriet Shoosmith re Room Booking Portcullis House for 3rd May AGM of the APPG.**

**14th April APPG Fire Adviser further correspondence with family of the late Sam Webb, and also received correspondence from the President of NAADUK relating to his claim of certain Insurers appearing to be forming an illegal ‘Cartel’. Sought guidance from Interim Director FPA Howard Passey. APPG Fire Adviser R King corresponded with Mike Wood confirming that we have the On-line “virtual” meeting with Home Office Officials for 10.15am until 11.15am on Friday 28th April; and also confirmed the House of Lords Room “G” (Black Rods Garden Entrance) on 24th April 2023 starting at 2pm until 4pm then post Event Buffet until 4.45pm, in the same room. 15th April APPG members notified by Adviser Mike Wood of the imminent publication of the Paul Morrell/Anneliese Day KC Joint report on Product Testing Standards. 16th April Fire Adviser R King received details of personal invitation to Headingley Stadium Leeds for 90th Birthday Celebration Event for International Cricket Umpire Harold “Dickie” Bird OBE on 19th April. 16th April APPG Adviser R King prepared DRAFT Financial Joint Report for APPG in consultation with Peter Aldous MP and also the APPG’s Accountant’s published Annual Accounts. 17th April Adviser R King exchanged correspondence with Danielle Gregory Tower Blocks UK re previous correspondence on Risk Assessments.**

**The response he gave was: “In relation to your query around the frequency of High Rise fire risk assessments (FRA), these should be regularly reviewed to ensure they remain up to date. To comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (as amended), the Responsible Person (RP) should review their FRA when they suspect it is no longer valid or where there has been a significant change in their premises that has affected their fire precautions, such as the introduction of new risks or structural changes. There are no specified timescales for when to carry out a review for high-rise residential. The Home Office’s ‘Fire safety in purpose-built blocks of flats’ guidance does suggest annual reviews for high risk premises, however, it is for the Responsible Persons to determine the frequency based upon the risk profile of their building.**

**It is worth noting that the government released a Fire Risk Assessment Prioritisation Tool to support RP’s in their prioritisation strategy for updating their FRA’s to include amendments required under the Fire Safety Act 2021 clarifying that the Fire Risk Assessments for all multi-occupied residential buildings should be updated to include structure, external walls, and flat entrance doors. Use of the tool is not mandatory nor a replacement for the FRA.**

**When a member of LFB’s inspection staff visit a premises and reviews the FRA, Home Office guidance and application of the tool (if applicable) will be taken into consideration as they carry out their role as the enforcing authority.**

**Ultimately, responsibility for ensuring the FRA is in place is and remains suitable and sufficient, rests with the Responsible Person for the premises and it is against this that LFB as the regulatory body in London, would check on its attendance to audit the fire safety arrangements.”**

**17th April APPG Adviser R King DRAFTED a letter of entry for the 45 delegates attending the FSF Event sponsored by Lord Hendy KC and supported by the APPG, utilising Black Rod’s Garden Entrance to Parliament. 18th April NAADUK Update Bulletin further discussed with H Passey. 19th April APPG Adviser R King travelled to Leeds to attend H D “Dickie” Bird OBE’s 90th Birthday Event at Headingley Cricket Ground. (The former Cricket Umpire had supported the APPG Events in Westminster during the late Adviser/Hon. Douglas Smith tenure/stewardship of the APPG)**

**19th April APPG Chairman received correspondence from Dr Helen Richman DLUHC. “I am getting in touch because the Government expects to publish tomorrow the Independent Review of Construction Products Testing commissioned by DLUHC in the wake of the Grenfell Tower Tragedy.**

**The Review provides a comprehensive assessment of the current system. We will be carefully considering its recommendations for reform and are grateful to the reviewers – Paul Morrell OBE and Anneliese Day KC, for their thorough report”.**

**“The Reviewers would be happy to meet next week with Bob Blackman MP as Chair of the Fire APPG to discuss the Review. We have also flagged the publication with the Clerk of the DLUHC Select Committee, so there may be some opportunity for a joint meeting”.**

**“R King scoped their availability for the next week as follows.**

**They are both quite busy and Paul is heading off to the States on the 28th – but are holding these times in diaries.**

**I think it would be much appreciated I think if we could try to tie down whether the Chairs would like to meet the Reviewers (and when) by close on Friday? I would appreciate if you could copy my colleague Matt Trueman on any response.” Discussed with APPG Chairman Bob Blackman MP and Adviser Mike Wood.**

**20th April Received notice from Dr. Helen Richman: “Today we are publishing the Independent Review of Construction Product Testing led by Paul Morrell OBE and Anneliese Day KC. This has been commended to both Houses of Parliament in a Written Ministerial Statement by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP.**

**The Independent Review can be found here: The Independent Review.**

**The Written Ministerial Statement can be found here: Statement to Parliament.”**

**“In his statement to Parliament the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP said that the government recognises historic failings in the system by which construction products were tested, assured and made available for sale. The Government is committed to ensuring the testing regime for construction products is effective and inspires public and market confidence, and will set out proposals for reform of the UK’s construction product regime in due course building on the work of the Review. The Secretary of State has welcomed contributions from all who share the government’s goal of a safer built environment towards the proposals for reform”.**

**Dame Judith Hackitt said: 'This report marks a major step forward in mapping the complexity and opacity of the current construction product testing regime (...) and identifies (...) significant improvements can and should be made. Paul Morell OBE and Anneliese Day KC are to be commended. This is an opportunity which must be taken, and with some urgency'.**

**Peter Capelhorn, Chief Executive of the Construction Products Association said: “We are very pleased to see the publication of this Review. Both authors are known for their intellect and objective approach to the challenges facing our industry.”**

**“This report should be required reading for policy-makers and industry leaders alike, coming at a critical time not only for the future of the UK product testing and certification sector, but for the wider culture and practices of UK construction as well. The recommendations cover a wide range of urgent issues, and the CPA and its members will be focusing on developing the necessary responses and actions in consultation with department officials.”**

**23rd April APPG Fire Adviser R King informed those attending Parliament for the FSF Event on 24th April, that a protest is taking place in Parliament Square, which is not likely to impact on the APPG sponsored Event. He notified all members of the APPG of the Event taking place on the 24th April, should they wish to ‘drop-in’ during any part of the Event. 24th April APPG Adviser R King travelled to London for the APPG Event and met with Lord Kennedy re proceedings and also liaised with the Room Bookings team to ‘log-in’ to his Parliamentary laptop and connect to the TV screen in the Room. 25th April Circulated the Event slides to APPG members for 24th April Event. APPG corresponded with Matt O’Grady HSE re the APPG activity and notices. 26th April APPG Held meeting on the Construction Products Report in Westminster Hall Room W2 attended by Paul Morrell, Anneliese Day KC, Bob Blackman CBE MP and his Secretary Harriet Shoosmith plus Advisers R King and Mike Wood, together with Dept. officials Louise Barr (Deputy Director, Construction Products, DLUHC); Lindsey Lewis (Construction Products, DLUHC); Helen Richman (Building Safety and Reform, DLUHC).**

**27th April APPG Adviser R King received a DRAFT note of the APPG meeting on Construction Products Testing. 28th April APPG Adviser R King participated in the “ZOOM” meeting with Matthew Armer Home Office, Mike Wood APPG, Martin Boyd Leasehold Commonhold Reform APPG.**

**MAY 2023 -**

**1st May APPG Adviser R King followed up on Agenda, notices and papers for APPG AGM in Portcullis House on 3rd May. Notice from LKP (Sir Peter Bottomley MP) to raise with Churchill Retirement its decision to continue charging ground rents. APPG Adviser R king received correspondence from IFE - Nominations are open for two Trustee vacancies. Parliament’s Proposed Reforms for APPGs. The Committee on Standards published a major new report with recommendations to improve the regulation of All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) and safeguard Parliament from improper lobbying and hostile state actors. Adviser Mike Wood follow up on meeting with DLUHC, Paul Morrell and Anneleise Day KC - Govt officials - and so many others - want to think of fire safety in a rather basic simplified and generalised narrative. Reality is that fire safety really needs attention on the details. Notification of death of former CFO of Essex Roger Paramoor. Sent out ZOOM link to members for APPG AGM.**

**2nd May APPG received invitation from Clive Betts MP to join him for a panel debate on ‘Indoor Air Quality and Health’, on 10 May at 14:00 in Room C, 1 Parliament Street with the APPGs for Health and Carbon Monoxide. Baroness Jenny Jones of Moulsecoomb will deliver the keynote speech, followed by an esteemed panel discussion. Information received for members from the House of Lords Administration and Domestic Committees. Request received to contribute a comment piece of up to 750 words to feature on the new site, as part of the Fire Safety and Rescue APPG. (Deferred to a later date due to multiple commitments). APPG Adviser R King exchanged emails with Adviser Mike Wood confirming Minutes of the APPG meeting with Construction Products Testing authors Paul Morrell OBE and Anneleise Day KC. 2nd May APPG Adviser R King and members attended Coronation Reception in Westminster Hall for the King Charles and Queen Camilla. Met with many MP’s and Peers during the Reception including Sec. of State Grant Shapps MP, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Peter Aldous MP, Liz Twist MP, Martin Vickers MP, the speakers of both Houses as well as spoke with the new King and Camilla. 3rd May attended Westminster for APPG Fire Safety & Rescue AGM in Room “N” Portcullis House. Appointed three new Co Vice Chairs: Lord Hendy KC, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Rt. Hon. Sir Desmond Swayne MP. Invitation from Max Parker to attend one of the APPG “Drop-in” sessions. Received Alan Brinson’s EFSN April report. Confirmation received from Baroness Brinton as continuation of Co Vice Chair of APPG at the AGM. 4th May APPG notified by Mike Wood of the retirement of Peter Baker as the HSE Building Safety Regulator.**

**Confirmation from Home Office Minister’s PS of his intended attendance at the next APPG meeting. Notified Caterina Boico (Ukraine interpreter) of Minister Philp’s intention to attend the next APPG meeting. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Jane Davidson MP re her previous role at the Guildhall School of Music attended by a mutual friend of both - Wynne Evans (Go Compare)!!. 5th May Corresponded with Home Office and Caterina Boico re date for Minister meeting confirmed as 6th June and arrangements for Ukraine Regions to be at the meeting via ZOOM. Sent photographs from Coronation Reception to Martin Vickers MP, Liz Twist MP and M Ferrier MP. Government gave assurance that the leasehold Reform Bills would be brought forward in this session of Parliament, but it would not publish the Bills for pre-legislative scrutiny as former housing minister Lord Greenhalgh has urged. Lord Kennedy of Southwark, Labour chief whip in the Lords and a powerful voice for leaseholders, raised the issue, and received the following response from Baroness Scott of Bybrook, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Lords : “We are committed to making enfranchisement simpler and cheaper for leaseholders.” APPG notified updates of APPG to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. APPG notified that Igor Klumenko – was the Ukrainian new interior minister. Correspondence sent to APPG Chairman and circulated to all members. APPG Chairman received Ministry of Justice and Home Office Minster re Rehabilitation of Offenders proposals for the Fire Service. Confirmed and agreed. 6th May Government consultation on implementing minimum service levels for fire and rescue services during periods of strike action. Circulated to APPG.**

**9th May APPG received newsletter from Fire Sector Federation. APPG Adviser R King received update from Ukraine re attendees likely at 6th June APPG meeting. Adviser r King also received Chairman’s signed copy of AGM minutes for APPG. Received and read HOL Library magazine for May 2023. 10th May APPG Adviser R King attended meeting in Westminster – Boris Johnson MP Office re Ukraine, attended by Caterina Boico (interpreter). Finalised the minutes of the meeting with APPG Chair, Paul Morrell and Anneliese Day KC plus three DLUHC officials, and sent to all parties. And APPG members. Further Correspondence exchanged with Paul Morrell OBE and Mike Wood. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Andrea Laybourne and met Richard Mark in Boris Johnson MP Office. 11th May corresponded with Richard Mark of B Johnson MP Office. Corresponded with APPG Co Vice Chair Mary Glindon MP Office re staff meeting in June.**

**12th May APPG Adviser R King notified of former local firefighter death in West Wales. Corresponded with family. FSF Basecamp news letter and notification re Fire Risk Assessors. Confirmed with Lord Hendy the Lords Room Booking for the 6th June APPG meeting with Home Office Minister Chris Philp. 14th May APPG Chairman Bob Blackman CBE MP signed response to Rehabilitation of Offenders correspondence. APPG received correspondence with Ian Moore – Chief Executive of the Fire Industry Association (FIA) re the new FIA Northwich office due to be opened in July, it is good timing as every piece of equipment (including those used by the F&RS) used in the active side of fire safety in the UK will be on display. To be discussed further.**

**15th May APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. sent out calling notice and papers for 6th June APPG meeting individually to sixty Peers and MP’s. Received further correspondence from Leasehold Knowledge Partnership on How do you impose the sheer expense of carbon neutral enhancements to a block of flats to meet Net Zero targets? Confirmation from Ukraine re the importance of coordinating and ensuring participation in the meeting from the Ukrainian side in the conference mode of the leadership of the relevant ministry (Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Emergency Service of Ukraine), as well as representatives of regional structures of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine located in the border regions, in particular, in the Odessa region with which we are already conducting preliminary work. Included APPG in All-Party notices. Baroness Brinton and ten MP’s and Peers confirm attendance for the 6th June APPG meeting – including Update from Ukraine.**

**16th May APPG received notice of six deaths in a New Zealand Hostel fire. 16th May APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Jane Stevenson MP re Lyric Theatre in Carmarthen 17th May APPG received correspondence from Dom Ellis Deputy Fire Commissioner London re attending next APPG meeting to talk about the growing fire risk associated with Lithium-Ion batteries. APPG Adviser R King**

**corresponded with Boris Johnson, and Lord Greenhalgh re 6th June APPG meeting featuring Ukraine. Further correspondence sent to Minister Philp with additional papers for the APPG meeting on 6th June. 17th May Jim Fitzpatrick, Claire Hoyland, Alistair Brown, Alasdair Perry BAFSA invites to 6th June APPG meeting. Update on losses to Ukraine Fire Services:-**

**405 destroyed fire stations 87 fire stations now are on the occupied territories 1622 destroyed fire vehicles - Killed 74 firefighters - Injured 237 firefighters - 5 firefighters are in captivity**

**Almost 186 000 buildings have been either destroyed or damaged,**

**98,118 emergency response calls made after shelling 14 823 fires extinguished. 4,111 persons rescued. 396,966 explosive objects have been defused. Letter sent from APPG Chairman Bob Blackman MP to Sec. of State DLUHC re Construction Products Testing. Following APPG meeting with DLUHC officials, plus Paul Morell OBE Annaliese Day KC, R King and Mike Wood in Westminster Hall meeting Room W2. APPG notified of changes of contact details for Lord Porter. Adviser R King corresponded with Claire Hoyland Fire Aid and NFCC re the recent convoy to Ukraine. APPG Adviser R king received FSF AGM minutes from D Davis. APPG Adviser R King consulted with Claire Hoyland of NFCC and Fire Aid re contributing to APPG Meeting with Home Office Minister Chris Philp on 6th June, involving the State and Regions of Ukraine’s Fire Services. 18th May APPG Adviser R King attended Parliament debate on Govt. Departments NOT answering correspondence. Jacob Rees Mogg MP. Correspondence exchanged with Mike Wood and Helen Richman DLUHC re future DLUHC contacts on construction products. 19th May – Government Policy Paper released – “We are seeking evidence to improve the way children missing education are identified and supported”. APPG received a request from Construction News to complete a survey. 21st May – corresponded with CFO Phil Garrigan and Sandra Wainwright of Merseyside FRS re support for new fire trucks to Ukraine, as a consequence of UK stocks of surplus vehicles almost exhausted.**

**21st May Reporting deadline date for APPG Fire Safety & Rescue Annual General meeting. 22nd May. Leasehold Knowledge Partnership release - Black Friday for FirstPort: ALL leaseholders at St David’s Square to share £479,000 service charge triumph. And £55,000 in energy subsidies to be paid up. Request from Kensington Councillor and former MP Emma Dent-Coad to assist with her annual Grenfell Briefing for MPs and the press to share correct information from professional organisations and others involved in the aftermath of the atrocity that has affected millions of people across the UK. 22nd May APPG corresponded with Lord Greenhalgh re what further assistance and support the UK can give to Ukraine’s Fire & Rescue Services. APPG received and corresponded to Report - Sprinklers and Gravity Smoke Ventilators. 23rd May Agreement received from CFO Carrigan for APPG’s request to Government to try and provide new Fire Vehicles or modified Defence vehicles to assist Ukraine. Mention was made by CFO Carrigan of the lead-in time possibly being problematic. 24th May APPG Adviser R King Exchanged correspondence with Claire Hoyland NFCC and Fire Aid. Received Lord Hendy confirmation of attendance at the 6th June APPG with Home Office Minister. A number of apologies received for the 6th June meeting, but sufficient positive replies to ensure its success. Tony Lloyd MP is not currently attending Parliament for medical reasons. 25th May APPG Hon. Sec. R King invited Alex Sobel MP the co chair of the Ukraine APPG to the meeting with the Minister. 26th May received Alan Brinson EFSN Annual Report ahead of Amsterdam meeting. Architects Journal reports: “Government steps in over botched Agar Grove building”. 29th May Leashold Knowledge Partnership reports: “Labour’s Lisa Nandy and Matthew Pennycook poured scorn on the government’s repeated and undelivered promises to reform the leasehold system. The debate showed wide knowledge among MPs of the leasehold issues. Leasehold Knowledge Partnership has spent years coaxing the Law Commission and officials to get to the point when ‘oven-ready’ reforms are there and waiting.”**

**30th May APPG Hon. Sec. liaised with most of those attending the APPG re timing and ‘follow-ups’ afterwards. Video downloaded for Dep Fire Commissioner Dom Ellis. Spoke with Luisa Jaimie HOL Rooms who would be available to set up the links and IT before the meeting start on 6th June. 31st May - A large fire reported at a three-storey housing association block in Hampshire, which has caused severe damage and left residents homeless. (link circulated to members).**

**JUNE 2023 -**

**1st June APPG Hon. Sec. - correspondence exchanged with Alasdair Perry, Ruth Oliver, Alistair Brown, Oksana Romanukha, Tillie Muir (FBU) re APPG meeting on 6th June. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Mike Wood, Paul Bussey re the Home Office Reform Fire Safety Programme and submitted names to Freddie Amos, Policy Analyst, Home Office Fire Safety Unit as them being interested in further involvement with the programme and representing the APPG. APPG Hon. Sec. R King Further Notified by T Roche about the fire in a block of flats in Hampshire displacing a number of residents. Passed again to APPG members for information. Of interest to local MP and APPG Member Royston Smith MP. Report of another school fire in Yatton, Somerset, passed on to APPG members. Provided an update on the Grenfell related issues that the APPG (Fire Safety & Rescue) has been dealing with, in response to an email from former Kensington MP, Emma Dent-Coad, as the next anniversary of Grenfell Tower draws close. A debate in the Commons has been scheduled for 6th July. 2nd June confirmation from Andrew Jones MP of his attendance at the 6th June APPG Meeting with Home Office Minister Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP, and with Ukraine Interior Ministry and Regional Fire Services online. APPG Chair’s letter to Sec. of State DLUHC re the Review of Construction Products, and posing a few questions. Corresponded with T McDermott re an article in FIRE Magazine Ben Brook is the Chief Fire Officer in Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service. Ben has been a leader within the sector for over 22 years and is passionate about the future of the sector. Re climate change and the role of automatic fire sprinkler protection. Corresponded with Chairman and Home Office Ministers for Crime Police & Fire and Minister for Justice re Fire & Rescue Service Integrity – (inclusion of Fire & Rescue Authority employees in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exceptions) Order 1975. 3rd June APPG Adviser R King Drafted letter for Chairman’s response letter to the two Ministers of State (Justice and Fire) APPG Adviser R King wrote to Oskana Romanukha re limitations in time at the APPG meeting on 6th June for the Minister, and asking her to only speak if invited.**

**APPG received Further correspondence from Emma Dent Coad confirming that she is no longer a member of the Labour Party, and stands in Kensington Council as an Independent. 4th June APPG Adviser R King Corresponded with David Owens Accountant ref APPG accounts and invoice. 5th June APPG Adviser R King corresponded with project coordinator at the Center for Applied Socio-Political Analysis (NPO), Kharkiv, Ukraine, ref the attendance of Ukraine firefighting regions at the APPG meeting with Home Office Minister of State Chris Philp MP. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with PS to Minister Rowley DLUHC, querying the failures to give promised dates for the APPG meeting with the Minister. APPG Hon. Sec. corresponded with Lord Goddard of Stockport re joining the APPG and attending the next meeting after the Ukraine meeting. APPG Hon. Sec. corresponded with Sarah Adamson re the exchange of letters between Angloco and Serhii Trehunenko, Deputy Head of the Ukraine State Emergency Service regarding the potential conversion of MOD Trucks as Firefighting vehicles. 6th June meeting of APPG with Home Office Minster of State Chris Philp MP. and also attended by State Emergency Service Kyiv:**

**Oleksandr VASKOVSKY - Deputy Director of the Department of Material and Technical Support and Logistics – MAIN SPEAKER FROM UKRAINE**

**Ivan TATARINOV - Head of the Department of Automotive and Fire-Technical Support and Road Traffic Safety of the Department of Material-Technical Support and Logistics. Stanislav RUDIY - Deputy CEO Head of the Department of European Integration and International Cooperation and**

**Oleksandr Krytskyi - Deputy Head for Emergency Response and Use of Forces of the Main Department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Odesa Region, Colonel of the Civil Protection Service, together with**

**representatives from: Odesa, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, and Luhansk. The day of the meeting also coincided with the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka Dam, resulting in the flooding of Kherson area. Baroness Brinton also raised PEEPS with Minister Philp. LFB Deputy Fire Commissioner Dom Ellis spoke at the APPG meeting re Lithium-ion batteries and the increased occurrences associated with their use in London. Please see link to an incident in London as follows: Video is available here: https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2023/may/brigade-issues-further-warning-after-e-bike-explosion-caught-on-camera/**

**Received monthly report for May from A Brinson EFSN. 7th June APPG Hon. Sec. Sent emails thanking participants in the APPG meeting including from Ukraine. Debrief following meeting with Alasdair Perry, Ruth Oliver and Simon Ince.**

**7th June APPG Adviser R King thanked Luisa Jaime (HOL Rooms) for assistance in setting up links to Ukraine online for the meeting. Forwarded a copy of Zoom recording of meeting to Mary Wedgwood (Maldives) for DRAFT transcript. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Caterina Boico (Ukraine) who translated during the APPG meeting. APPG Adviser R King Followed up meeting with Sarah Adamson and Alistair Brown re the previous exchange of letters regarding adapting MOD vehicles as Fire Appliances. 8th June APPG Adviser/Hon. Sec. discussed the transcript of the meeting with Mary Wedgwood. and prepared the DRAFT minutes from the 6th June meeting. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Home Minister Philp via his PS and included various attachments. APPG received details of a serious flats fire in Croydon with spread outside compartments. (copied to members) 9th June 2023 Forwarded a copy of the DRAFT minutes from the 6th June APPG meeting to Minister Chris Philp. 10th June APPG Adviser R King agreed date of 28th June for a meeting in Parliament with APPG Co Vice Chair Mary Glindon MP and her Office Manager to discuss a series of issues. 10th June Received a detailed list of Equipment from Caterina Frosia urgently needed to assist with the Flooding in Kherson Region following the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka Dam. Passed to Minister Philp. Sent copies of DRAFT minutes from 6th June APPG meeting to all MP’s and Peers on the Group. 11th June APPG Adviser R King corresponded further with Deputy Fire Commissioner Dom Ellis of LFB re London’s kind assistance with providing flood equipment in response to the call for help from Ukraine. APPG Received notification of the death of former Chief Fire Officer William Dancey, and sent condolences. APPG Adviser corresponded with Lord Greenhalgh and attached DRAFT minutes form the APPG 6th June meeting. 12th June APPG received an email from Lord Goddard who has agreed to join the APPG and for a pre- meeting informally to discuss current issues. 13th June circulated to APPG members the article from Pete Apps (Inside Housing) reference** [**https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/insight/six-years-on-from-grenfell-why-do-most-social-housing-blocks-still-not-have-sprinklers-or-fire-alarms-81879**](https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/insight/six-years-on-from-grenfell-why-do-most-social-housing-blocks-still-not-have-sprinklers-or-fire-alarms-81879)**;**

**“Six years on from Grenfell, why do most social housing blocks still not have sprinklers or fire alarms”? 13th June email from temp PS to DLUHC Minister Lee Rowley that the APPG will receive a date for a meeting shortly! Corresponded with Caterina Frosia (Ukraine Interpreter) who is returning to Ukraine to visit a cousin who is a young soldier shortly to go into operations. Received email from T Roche re the Building Safety Act Section 21. “The opening clause in one part calls for a cost benefit analysis of automatic water fire suppression systems in ‘relevant buildings’. The definition of ‘relevant buildings’ changes within differing sections of the Act. However, this would be a good opportunity to push. It was introduced as an amendment so government could move forward.” 14th June APPG Adviser R King watched PMQ’s and Building Safety Act 2022 (Consequential amendments etc.) Regs 2023. APPG received correspondence from Melissa Harrison FPA re help in asking Felicity Buchan MP to give closing remarks at Autumn Fire Conference in London. I reminded the FPA that Felicity is now a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and can’t be a co Vice Chair of the Group. She could possibly be asked as a Minister to give a keynote speech. 15th June HOL Debate Commissions paid to Freeholders & managing agents by insurance companies when arranging building insurance for leasehold properties. 16th June received a request for APPG members to attend a book launch: “Before Grenfell: Fire, Safety and Deregulation in Twentieth-Century Britain” written by Professor Shane Ewen FRHistS, School of Cultural Studies and Humanities, at Leeds Beckett University. Corresponded with former MP Jim Fitzpatrick re the APPG meeting and Fire Aid. Jim invited APPG Adviser to attend the Fire Aid AGM in London on 29th June. 16th June Corresponded with PS to Home Office Minister Chris Philp requesting confirmation of the equipment assembled by the Environment Agency in Warwick in response to the flooding arising from the Nova Kakhova Dam destruction, and by the UK Fire & Rescue Services in Ashford. APPG corresponded with Jim Fitzpatrick – Chairman of Fire Aid and sent a copy of the DRAFT minutes from the APPG meeting of 6th June. Further correspondence exchanged with Prof. Shane Ewen, suggestion moving the book launch to the Parliamentary Bookshop to assist members attending whilst still being able to vote. Received email from Martin Boyd asking APPG Adviser to meet with Alan Draper who runs an EC charging installation company, along with Fire Service colleagues re fire service policy on EV issues in underground car parks. 17th June Updated APPG members with a summary of latest fires of interest and fire safety news. 17th June received an update from Private Secretary to Minister Chris Philp a summary of the items which were recently sent to Ukraine to assist with the Kherson flooding as follows:**

**Summary of equipment provided by 27 FRS & the Maritime and Coastguard Agency**

**• 19 boats**

**• 8 boat engines**

**• 2300 additional pieces of equipment**

**Delivery**

**• Equipment sent via HGVs with assistance from UKISAR; departed for Ukraine on Wednesday 14 June.**

**• Cross-channel route by ferry to Calais.**

**• Delivery to and handover to the State Emergency Services in L’viv remains scheduled for the weekend.**

**Wider UK Government and partners:**

**We have engaged heavily with FCDO colleagues and the Environment Agency, through DEFRA. Both FCDO and the EA are providing flood response aid, while the water industry has equipment for donation:**

**FCDO**

**FCDO’s in-kind response is delivering:**

**• 12 boats and ancillaries**

**• 6 water filters**

**• 1101 sets of waders**

**• 200 water pumps and ancillaries (hoses and jerry cans)**

**Environment Agency**

**• A convoy of lorries carrying donated flood equipment left on Thursday 15 June for Poland. Details of the EA convoy can be found here - Emergency convoy leaves UK with vital flood equipment for Ukraine - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**

**De-mining**

**• There are two types of de-mining programme;**

**o (a) ‘Breaching’ to clear paths within the conflict zone. Support in this area is led by MOD.**

**o (b) ‘Humanitarian’ to clear areas where mines have been left following conflict. For UKG this is led by Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO).**

**• FCDO are prioritising provision of military equipment, which includes demining equipment for battlefield use. Other donors appear better placed to fund demining equipment for humanitarian mine action, and FCDO would encourage Ukraine to make requests through UNDP, in its mine action donor coordination role. Once funding is identified, our Department for Business and Trade can support the identification of requirements and source capabilities from UK companies.**

**18th June Liaised with Lord Hendy re guidance in asking a supplementary question to the School Minister following Baroness Twycross’s question on safety of school buildings. He wanted an update on where we are with mandatory fire sprinklers in schools, having noted recently yet another school fire. A summary of the issues provided and the unpublished results yet of DfE’s consultation which closed almost a year ago!! Also provided a copy of a recent Zurich media Press Release as follows:** [**https://www.zurich.co.uk/media-centre/pupil-fire-danger**](https://www.zurich.co.uk/media-centre/pupil-fire-danger)**; 19th June APPG circulated this information to APPG Advisers and fire safety colleagues. APPG notified by T Roche of two firefighters killed in Germany motor cycle store fire. 20 June Watched HOL debate on schools fire Safety – Lord Hendy KC participating. APPG Adviser corresponded with James Aulton Home Office Fire Safety Unit re contact details for Paul Bussey APPG Architectural Adviser regarding his interest in being involved with the Home Office Reform Fire Safety Programme. Notified by D Davis that BIM4Housing are holding online Roundtable sessions between June 19th and July 4th to update their Guidance on risk mitigation for the 12 fire-critical assets they identified and worked on two years ago. 21 June APPG circulated Zurich and NFCC together with NFSN, BAFSA and BSA re meeting with Schools Minister and APPG, accepted by the Parliamentary Under Sec. of State for the School System Baroness Barran for the 18th July 2023. APPG Booked a Room in the House of Lords for this meeting at 2pm until 3pm. (This meeting was postponed by DfE and rearranged) 21 June APPG Received notification from Jim Fitzpatrick to attend Fire Aid AGM meeting at LFB HQ in Southwark on 29th June 2023. 22nd June received dates for pre-meeting re BB100, and from those who can make the APPG meeting on 18th July. Received agenda and papers for Fire Aid meeting on 29th June from Andy Young (LFB and Fire Aid). Commencing at 11.30am. Notification of new Chairman of Fire Aid (David O’Neill) replacing Jim Fitzpatrick who is ‘stepping down’ after ten years in the role. Claire Hoyland NFCC will become Vice Chair. APPG Notified by APPG Adviser Mike Wood of Big scrapyard fire in Widnes. Seems to be a new feature, and Mike doesn’t really understand why scrapyards seem to be such a risk. They present a Major pollution threat. 23rd June APPG received figures from T Roche on the damage figures for schools being used by DfE (RPA). 25th June APPG received Invite from Ian Moore to APPG members to visit FPA new offices at Northwich which are about to officially open. Ian to attend next APPG meeting on 18th July to speak to this invitation. 26th June APPG Adviser R King agreed TEAMS meeting with S McGuirk FSF for 27th June. APPG received notice from Alysa Remtulla (Senior Adviser – Fire & Resilience) – Office of Mayor of London to be added to APPG mailing list. APPG Hon. Sec. received availability from those with an interest in BB100 Schools meeting dates prior to 18th July. (settled on pre-meeting on “TEAMS” on 14 July) 28th June APPG Adviser R King Meeting in Parliament with APPG Co Vice Chair Mary Glindon MP and her Office Manager re update on key fire safety issues late morning and early afternoon, APPG Hon. Sec. Wrote individually to sixty MP’s and Peers re next APPG meeting with Schools Minister Baroness Barran on 18th July in Lords Committee Room 1 commencing at 2pm. Agreed with Mike Wood to raise scrap yard fires at the shortly to be confirmed meeting with DLUHC Minister Lee Rowley MP. APPG Hon. Sec. wrote to Mary Wedgwood to seek confirmation of her availability for transcription of APPG meeting on 18th July. Received email from T Roche re BBC radio morning programme on Schools Building Safety with The undercurrent being government not listening or engaging on the issues. Sounded familiar. It was expected that this would be one of the arguments put on the table by the Department for Education about restricted resources. 29th June APPG Adviser R King attended LFB HQ in Southwark for Fire Aid AGM, followed by meeting with MP’s and Peers in Westminster Parliament. APPG Received notification From LFB Fire Commissioner requesting Lord Hendy and Bob Blackman MP to participate in NFCC Parliamentary Scheme. (Forwarded respectively). Exchanged correspondence with Mike Wood re 50th Anniversary of Summerland and its link with Grenfell. 30th June T Roche advised that DLUHC have provided an update on the progress with the Phase 1 recommendations. There are a lot of items within the document. (featured on morning radio news programmes).**

**JULY 2023**

**1st July APPG Correspondence exchanged with Niamh Smith, Assistant PS to Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP, Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, re a detailed list of equipment which was mobilised via convoys to Ukraine from the UK Fire & Rescue Services and the Environment Agency following the Kherson Dam explosion. It is a sixth convoy which means the UK Fire & Rescue Services have donated an amazing 86 fire engines and 160,000 items of equipment since the war commenced. The response from the Minister was: “Summary of equipment provided by 27 FRS & the Maritime and Coastguard Agency**

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**• 2300 additional pieces of equipment**

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**• FCDO are prioritising provision of military equipment, which includes demining equipment for battlefield use. Other donors appear better placed to fund demining equipment for humanitarian mine action, and FCDO would encourage Ukraine to make requests through UNDP, in its mine action donor coordination role. Once funding is identified, the Department for Business and Trade can support the identification of requirements and source capabilities from UK. APPG Adviser R King exchanged correspondence with APPG Adviser Mike Wood on the 50th Anniversary of the tragic Summerland Fire which was to be discussed in the House of Commons on 12th July. APPG Adviser R King received the link to video footage of an e-bike powered by a Lithium-Ion battery which caused small explosions inside a residential flat in London. Distribution to APPG members and advisers:** [**https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2023/may/brigade-issues-further-warning-after-e-bike-explosion-caught-on-camera/**](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2023/may/brigade-issues-further-warning-after-e-bike-explosion-caught-on-camera/)

**2nd July coincidentally APPG notified of a serious fire in a block of flats in Cambridge with a link to a lithium-ion battery bike. 3rd July Received a note from APPG Adviser Tom Roche re – something was inserted into the Building Safety Act that he wasn’t sure how important it could be: “Section 21. The opening clause is noted below and in one part calls for a cost benefit analysis of automatic water fire suppression systems in ‘relevant buildings’. The definition of ‘relevant buildings’ changes within differing sections of the Act. However, this would be a good opportunity to push. It was introduced as an amendment so government could move forward. Tom was reminded about this as the Minister was asked a question about elements of the Act in the House of Commons recently by Helen Morgan MP LibDem.spokesperson on Levelling Up:** [**https://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2023-06-06.188166.h&s=%22building+regulation%22#g188169.q2**](https://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2023-06-06.188166.h&s=%22building+regulation%22#g188169.q2)**;**

 **The other interesting aspect to the question to the Minister was the clause inserted into the Levelling Up Bill – as it transitions through Parliament – which would give the Sec of State the power to replace or strengthen the HSE as the Building Safety Regulator – within two years following the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report.**

**4th July All APPG members’ attention was drawn to The Home Office guide: “Check your fire safety responsibilities under Section 156 of the Building Safety Act 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).” which was published on 4th July. This guidance is for people who have responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 which has been amended by Section 156 of the Building Safety Act (BSA).**

**APPG has previously responded and contributed to this Guide during the DRAFT consultation stage.**

**5th July APPG Advisers circulated all APPG members details of the Cambridge Flats Fire in which a mother and two children died, and believed to have been caused by a Lithium-ion battery e-bike.**

**5th July APPG Adviser R King participated in a ZOOM meeting with Sarah Adamson of FIA and Fire Aid re follow up to APPG meeting on provision of adapting Defence Vehicles as Fire Appliances as a further consideration to assisting Ukraine. Received correspondence via Martin Boyd APPG Leaseholder Group from Alan Draper who runs an EC Charging installation company as well as a property Management Company. He wanted to discuss with some of the Fire Services’ experts on a policy to deal with EV issues in underground car parks. APPG Adviser R King firstly met with Mick Clark NFCC and a colleague Tamara Hooper, where we had a useful meeting, They didn’t however want to meet with a commercial operator, but would liaise with APPG on any issues arising. Alan Draper was also speaking with Oxfordshire FRS as his company was installing charging facilities and large car fire blankets into this Oxford Underground car park. 5th July APPG Chairman, plus Lord Hendy and other Group members have received correspondence from NFCC via LFB, inviting them to participate in the Fire Service Parliamentary Scheme, which initially means a short introduction course at the Fire Service College and then to work closely with a Fire Service locally to the area where they live . Lord Hendy plus two other APPG members agreed to participate, but NFCC decided to postpone this due to insufficient take up from elsewhere. Preparatory work was underway ahead of the APPG meeting with DfE Minister Baroness Barran, and BAFSA provided outline estimates for automatic fire sprinkler protection in new schools as follows:**

**“On a school of 4000m2 the rough cost would be £310k**

**Based on a hazard classification of OH1 which predominantly is the smaller primary type schools”’ “Larger academy’s which may have theatres and cooking labs etc are OH2 BAFSA has suggested a slight uplift for these”.**

**“Simplistically based on both false ceiling and void sprinklers throughout one would be looking at £50 to £60/m2, on top of this the water supply comprising of 1 electric pump and a 30 min tank would be circa £85k to £90k**

**For a larger academy the only cost that would really increase is the water supply which would be circa £100K. APPG Adviser Tom Roche suggested an initial meeting with the APPG Advisers on the new Revised Design Guide for Fire Safety in New Schools, and he has been working on some of the cost modelling and looking at some of the fire incident data. It would be worth discussing how APPG can use this data.**

**On 6th July APPG Adviser R King attended a debate in Westminster Parliament “Building Safety & Social Housing – to mark six years since Grenfell.**

**On 7th July an APPG Adviser wrote to R King saying: “ I notice that Cheshire Fire & Rescue are prosecuting 6 companies associated with the Beechmere Home, under the Fire Safety Order.” “It recalled that the building was reported as timber framed.**

**And wondered if there is further information on the fire? Especially:**

**How the safety precautions worked or did not work?**

**(For example, there must have been plenty of fire doors throughout the building. How did they perform? - How did the fire spread?**

**He said he was not looking for information that may prejudice the case, just basic information on how the measures in the building and the building itself performed? The information on how the fire developed and spread”.**

**“It was a major fire, and the building was completely destroyed. Clearly a major failure. But in what respects? Analysis?**

**Obvious if there was adequate compartmentation then it did not work. There's a question in APPG Adviser’s Tom Roche mind from this example and Grenfell whether compartmentation is really an adequate strategy in major fire occurrences.”?**

**Colin Todd, no doubt, will say "It does work" because the data shows that the big majority of fires are confined and limited to the room of origin. But that by definition is a local, relatively small fire condition.**

**What about major fire occurrences that affect the whole or major parts of a building? It's the outlier BIG fires that have the potential to cause major effects that we don't want. Beechmere was tragedy enough for residents losing homes, but it could have been so much worse. Tom Roche replied by saying “One of the APPG co Vice Chairs Dr Kieran Mullan MP is the local MP for Crewe and Nantwich which is where Beechmere is located. He knows a lot about this fire and raises it often at meetings with Ministers. I will ask Cheshire FRS what is in the Public domain”**

**APPG Notified All Members of the next meeting of the APPG to be held on 18th July in Lords Committee Room 1 where the Group will outline its ongoing concerns about DfE’s revised Fire Safety Design Guide. 7th July APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Lord Foster of Bath and Electrical Safety First re Lithium Ion batteries.**

**7th July. The link below is from a debate in Parliament on Building Safety and Social Housing. The matter of sprinklers came up most notably by Andy Slaughter and Fleur Anderson. The Inside Housing material on sprinklers was used as a reference to the first question to the Secretary of State the day before by Richard Burgon early on.**

[**https://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2023-07-06a.973.0&s=sprinkler#g974.0**](https://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2023-07-06a.973.0&s=sprinkler#g974.0)**;**

**His answer was not a direct line of a “one of a range of measures” as was rolled out later by the Minister. Which T Roche found interesting. As well as the SoS getting out early with his points on PEEPs which are causing a lot of government challenge at the moment. Interesting to see that sprinklers featured so early and within such a debate” 8th July Correspondence sent to Baroness Barran confirming meeting on 18th July to discuss the revised Fire Safety Design Guide in New Schools BB100. Terry McDermott notified R King of deaths at an Italian Care Home Fire.** [**https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-66130854**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-66130854)**; Circulated to all APPG members.**

**9th July Established “ZOOM” link for meeting with Schools Minister on 18th July (later deferred by Minister to 5th September for transcription and those unable to attend in person. 11th July Reminded colleagues of the three school fires which occurred in quick succession in Cambridge, Leicester and Log Eaton, when DfE states: “they are rare”!!**

**12th July – attended Westminster Parliament - the Summerland 50th Anniversary Debate led by Justin Madders MP.(Hansard available via the link referred to later on the 23rd July) Tom Roche produced an Analysis of fire related events as prepared by the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA). 13th July**

**Necessity to postpone the meeting with Baroness Barran (DfE) at short notice as she has to respond to an OPQ in the Lords. (new date to be rearranged – 5th Sept).**

**13th July corresponded with Ukraine Ambassador to Ukraine Vadim Prystaiko to arrange a meeting re the work of the APPG and Fire Aid.**

**14th July “TEAMS” meeting held with FIRE Colleagues relating to Schools Fire Safety relating to the forthcoming meeting with Baroness Barran. 15th July – Corresponded with Mark Healey (former Chairman of Devon Fire Authority) who would like to give a short update to the APPG on matters of interest relating to Fire, with which he is currently involved. (To be arranged)**

**17th July APPG Adviser R King arranged online meeting with Phil Clark and Tamara Hooper (NFCC) re electric car charging in underground car parks for 19th July. 18th July APPG Adviser R King attended Westminster Parliament to try to agree best dates for rearranged meetings for meeting with Schools Minister Baroness Barran. Following a number of discussions it was agreed the meeting would take place from 11am to 12pm on 5th September 2023 after Summer Recess. (everyone notified).**

**18th July APPG Adviser Meeting with Ian Moore Chief Executive of the Fire Industry Association to discuss a Member visit to FIA’s new Offices in Northwich. 19th July APPG Adviser R King met with Phil Clark and Tamara Hooper via “TEAMS” to discuss battery charging of electrical cars in underground car parks ahead of my meeting with Alan Draper.**

**19th July received letter from Vitallii Borovko (consulate) at the Ukraine Embassy in Holland Park, that Ambassador Prystaiko would meet APPG Member Lord Goddard and APPG Adviser R King at the Embassy on Tuesday 25th July at 11am to discuss Fire Service Aid to Ukraine and other related matters. 23rd July a link below to the Summerland Debate held in Westminster on the 12th July which APPG Adviser R King attended:** [**https://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2023-0712c.459.0**](https://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2023-0712c.459.0)**;**

**23rd July APPG received a summary of automatic fire sprinkler saves from Nick Coleshill for the period November 2021-May 2023, relating to School fires at those few schools which DfE have had automatic fire suppression installed in. 25th July APPG Notified by the Children’s Burns Trust (CBT) that they are delighted to announce the launch of its new website. Following an amazingly generous donation from Lumenis and Dr Tapan Patel who contributed an incredible donation which enabled the Trust to embark on a digital transformation project for the charity. Here we can find videos, infographics with burns data and personal stories of burns survivors on CBT’s new website. They would like to find out if the content is useful and worth sharing with those close to the reader, or to a wider audience to help reduce the number of burns and scalds happening to children. CBT is also delighted to announce that they have a new corporate sponsor who have agreed to support the Children's Burns Trust.**

**HCC Solicitors are an award-winning law firm which represent clients and families who have experienced a life-changing injury or fatality. Their aim is to help families get the physical rehabilitation, emotional rehabilitation and financial compensation to get their lives back on track. CBT also announced National Burn Awareness Day (see below).**

**Prevention and good first aid are key to reducing the number of burns and scalds occurring each year, especially in children and the elderly. National Burn Awareness Day is an annual event each October when CBT raise awareness through burns safety messages and share resources for others to do the same.**

**This year, National Burn awareness Day is on Wednesday 11th October 2023. 24th July APPG received correspondence from Chris Leese, Chair and Special Advisor – MPA UK Concrete, Mineral Products Association. Re testing of concrete panels; and an offer to give a presentation to APPG. (to be arranged)**

**25th July APPG Adviser R King attended Ukraine Embassy with Lord Goddard to meet Ambassador Vadym Prystaiko and his Consulate Vitalii Borovko. Invited Ukraine Special Transport Service to an online meeting as a follow up to mine decommissioning.**

**27th July APPG received a summary report from Henry Cainen of Electrical SafetyFirst stating: “The UK is facing a worrying spike in fires connected to lithium-ion batteries, which power e-bikes and e-scooters. In London on New Year's Day 2023, Sofia Duarte lost her life after an e-bike battery fire started in her flat. Since then, a further seven people have died in such fires.**

**E-bikes and e-scooters can help achieve UK net zero goals with their eco-friendly credentials. However, the batteries they run on can release a similar amount of stored energy as the amount of TNT contained in six-hand grenades if a fault occurs. This is why we see fires of such ferocity, which are almost impossible to put out once they have started. This is why they should concern you.**

**Electrical Safety First has produced the most comprehensive report on lithium-ion batteries to date: Battery Breakdown. We are sharing it with you now, and you can access it below. There is also a briefing summary which summarises the key issues for you”. – Communicated to all APPG Members (Fire Safety & Rescue)**

**AUGUST 2023**

**1st August announcement from Northern Ireland to see automatic fire sprinkler protection in flats from 11m upwards. The recent announcement from the Sec. of State on the second staircase was as expected a political decision.**

**Correspondence exchanged with Andrii Demenko-Innes regarding an arranged upcoming ‘Virtual’ meeting APPG has with the Ukraine State Service of Special Transport in relation to training and equipment needs for mines disposal and decommissioning. As outlined by Home Office Minister of State the Rt. Hon.Chris Philp MP. The advice given was to point them towards the UK Embassy in Kyiv they are coordinating FCDO led Humanitarian efforts Including de-mining (Annabel Green – Head of Office and PS to the Minister. 2nd August APPG Adviser R King held meeting online with Ukraine State Transport Service. Re mines. Also received notification from Helen Newton LFB Public Affairs Manager that she has been appointed as Head of Communications and Public Affairs at the NFCC. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Dan Peacock of Fleur Anderson’s office who is leaving to take up a post in Central Office. Introduced to his successor Harry Picken. 2nd August APPG Received correspondence from A Brinson EFSN re the government announced that it ‘intends to extend recognition of the CE marking for placing most goods on the market in Great Britain, indefinitely, beyond December 2024. These updates apply to the 18 regulations that fall under the Department for Business and Trade.’ It then lists them but construction products are not on the list, ‘There are different rules for medical devices, construction products,…’**

[**https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukca-marking-conformity-assessment-and-documentation**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukca-marking-conformity-assessment-and-documentation)**; He had understandably been asked by a manufacturer if it is likely that the same indefinite recognition of CE marking will apply to construction products, in which case there is no sense in manufacturers spending yet more money on UKCA marking. Construction products seem to fall under DLUHC:** [**https://www.gov.uk/guidance/construction-products-regulation-in-great-britain**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/construction-products-regulation-in-great-britain)**;**

**Would the APPG be able to ask? R King received and passed on a response from Louise Barr, Deputy Director Construction Products at DLUHC which said: “I can confirm that:**

**• This announcement applies only to the 18 sectors that fall under the Department for Business and Trade. It does not apply to construction products.**

**• The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have previously stated that recognition of the CE mark for construction products in Great Britain will continue until 30th June 2025.**

**• The Government is committed to ensuring the testing regime for construction products is effective and inspires public and market confidence.**

**• We will set out our proposals for reform of the construction products regime in due course.**

**@David Hughes is the lead in my team on this remit, so I have bought him into the email chain. Passed on to Alan Brinson. 3rd August corresponded with DLUHC Minister Lee Rowley’s Office re arranging a follow up meeting with the Minister for the APPG. It is over six months ago since he last attended a meeting of the Group. Colleague advisers on the APPG taken the opportunity in June to attend CABE events in Salford and Cardiff. These were more local events but combined they covered over 250 attendees from the building and building control community, at which a fire safety message could be conveyed. Notified of Government consultation on Smarter Regulation – Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture:** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/smarter-regulation-fire-safety-of-domestic-upholstered-furniture**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/smarter-regulation-fire-safety-of-domestic-upholstered-furniture)**; Received correspondence from Andrii Demenko Innes following APPG Adviser R King’s meeting with Ukraine Special Transport Service. Extending his gratitude for the help given in pointing them in the right direction (UK Embassy in Kyiv Ukraine) and sought permission for them to inform the First Deputy Defence Minister of Ukraine. Baroness Brinton agreed to speak at and participate in the Annual FIRE Conference in London on 17th October.**

**4th August APPG Adviser R King received an email from Mary Ward who was PS To Minister Lee Rowley MP DLUHC. She had moved to Private Sec. to the Director General for Safer and Greener Buildings DLUHC). She would pass on to Minister Rowley’s new Secretary the APPG outstanding request for a meeting with the Minister.**

**Received response letter from Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business Kevin Hollinrake MP in response to the APPG Chairman’s letter to Sec. of State Kemi Badenoch MP. The Minister is keen to meet with the APPG on the Safety of Lithium-Ion Batteries. Meeting planned for 19th September at the Dept. for Business & Trade. 7th August 2023 email received from Georgia Parkin PS to Minister Rowley MP, re arranging a date for meeting with Minister Rowley and agreed to be discussed during the week. Due to Parliament being in Summer Recess followed by Party Conferences, it wasn’t possible to set a date until after Party Conferences. (communication with Minister Rowley MP’s Office broke down due to frequent staff changes and difficult to get a response)! 8th August APPG Adviser Mike Wood notified of a Specialist Door Manufacturer given an opportunity to meet local MP Sir Jake Berry MP. Discussed appropriate Fire Safety Matters to raise. 8th August Decided the three MP’s plus Baroness Brinton attend meeting with Minister Hollinrake re Lithium-ion Batteries on 19th September, Received FSF Newsletter and brought some matters to APPG Members’ attention – “Home Office FRA and RP Surveys” – “Economic Cost of Fire” – “Guidance on Electric Vehicles in Covered Car Parks” – “BSI Takes Forward FRA Competency Standard” – “Home Office FRA and RP Survey”. Received a paper from Steve McGuirk: “Defining the fire sector landscape is critical to achieving a national fire safety strategy.” 8th Aug Note from Andrew Russell re the death of former Gwent Deputy Chief Fire Officer Cliff Finney. Received correspondence from Max Parker at Emergence Communications regarding a report and recommendations following the recent approval of the new regulations for All Party Parliamentary Groups which was debated and approved in Parliament on Wednesday 19 July 2023. Significant changes to take account of. Correspondence received from Georgia Parkin (Office of Lee Rowley MP) to arrange Minister meeting with APPG. Draft minutes prepared from meeting with State Special Transport for Ukraine. Received Fire Sector Federation Newsletter - Progressing Fire Risk Assessor Competency. - Fire Risk Assessment-a fundamental part of regulatory system. - Section 156 of the Building Safety Act 2022 - Fire Risk Assessor Group Preparations. - The British Standards Institution has also established a new committee, CPB/1, to produce standards relating to ‘Competence in the Built Environment’.- Questions for Fire Risk Assessors. 9 August Mary Wedgwood completed transcription of recent minutes. Circulated new date for meeting with Schools Minister Baroness Barran re BB100 Schools Fire Safety Design Guide. Replies coming in for a meeting on 5th September in the House of Lords. The meeting did clash with those on the Education Select Committee. Notice received from the OPSS (Dept. for Business and Trade) that a stakeholder Event on the Furniture and Furnishings Regs will be held on the 18 September and APPG Adviser R King applied for a place. APPG Chairman received “Ground Breaking Report” on Lithium-Ion Batteries from Electrical Safety First. – circulated to APPG membership. 10th August responses received from 75% of APPG re the meeting on 5th September and from those APPG members invited to meet with Minister Hollinrake on the 19th Sept. at the Dept. for Trade. 11th Aug corresponded with Georgia Parkin PS to Minister Rowley re confirming a date after 5th Sept for an APPG meeting with the Minister. APPG notified by Mark Weston of NAADUK regarding the work of David Jones in respect of the Building Safety Act. APPG corresponded with Steve McGuirk re the Foam filled furniture regs. FSF Chris Miles posted a message on Basecamp. - Update on National Fire Strategy proposal The latest episode of the FPA Assembly Point podcast - It includes Executive Officer, Steve McGuirk CBE and Tom Roche who provide an update on the proposal and next steps for the proposal made by the Fire Sector Federation almost a year ago to develop a national strategy for fire safety:** [**https://bit.ly/3OSZGD3**](https://bit.ly/3OSZGD3)**; Listen to the full episode here:** [**https://bit.ly/3h7Hu77**](https://bit.ly/3h7Hu77)**; Notified Steve McGuirk of FSF insofar as responding to Government consultations are concerned the APPG has three Fire Advisers, one of which is from the insurance industry, Three RIBA Architectural advisers who have a strong interest in fire, and a construction products testing adviser who also has expertise in Specialised fire Doors and Glazing. 12th August a number of confirmations received from Members and others for 5th Sept. Schools Minister meeting. 14th August Notified of a timely School fire in Hartlepool, ahead of 5th September meeting with Schools Minister Baroness Barran. 15th August Correspondence exchanged with APPG Adviser Mike Wood re Safety of Construction Products. – “I've seen information on-line that says the consultation does not include construction, only what are referred to as consumer goods”. That begs the question: “What does DLUHC intend to do for construction products? Right now there is a gaping hole in explanations from DLUHC” - . The Home Office now invites you and your organisation to comment on a revised draft guide entitled “Fire Safety in Purpose-Built Blocks of Flats (attached) as part of a 6-week engagement exercise.” (Timing is questionable when the Grenfell Public Inquiry is soon to report on phase 2) 17th August IFSJ – “Behind the fire element.”**

**What are the advantages of lithium-ion over nickel-metal hydride and nickel cadmium batteries? Nightstick answers common firefighter questions.“**

**Another serious School fire in Bolton Manchester ahead of meeting with Schools Minister on 5th September.**

[**https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/23526955/fire-rips-through-bolton-primary-school/amp/**](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/23526955/fire-rips-through-bolton-primary-school/amp/)

[**https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/23526955/fire-rips-through-bolton-primary-school/**](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/23526955/fire-rips-through-bolton-primary-school/)

**18th August - Consultation on the new safety regime for occupied higher-risk buildings Page summary: - Consultation covering the proposed changes to building regulations under part 4 of the Building Safety Act 2022. Change made: “Added government response to sections on building certification, safety case approach, mandatory occurrence reporting, residents’ voice, the golden thread, appeals, enforcement, and key building information.” 21st Aug Suggestion of having a strategy meeting from FSF re the New Approach consultation on the Foam Filled Furniture Regs. – planned for 1st September. APPG Adviser R King invited by Martin Boyd to attend APPG Leaseholder Group on 18th September. Alasdair Perry contacted APPG to say the he had received no response from Hannah Bardell MP regarding her joining the APPFSRG to replace Margaret Ferrier MP. APPG Adviser R King wrote to Hannah and received response from Marcus Woods on 22nd August that Hannah will be responding positively. Schools Fire Group (NFCC- Zurich – APPG – RIBA – BAFSA – NFSN) agreed to have a pre-meeting to Minister meeting on 30th Aug. agreed by all to attend. 22nd August Nell Brown Senior Policy Adviser RIBA requested opportunity to attend APPG meeting on 5th September. (agreed on this occasion). T Roche confirmed he would attend DfE Schools Minister meeting on 5th Sept. 22 Aug – Baroness Brinton, Peter Aldous MP confirmed they would attend the meeting with Minister Hollinrake on 19th September. 22nd Aug. Wildfires and the need for a UK Fire Danger Rating System – request from Natalie Fenton for Dr. Gareth Clay to give presentation to the APPG on this subject. 23 Aug two-schools-built-by-failed-contractor-forced-to-close-almost-new-buildings/ . “TEAMS” meeting with S McGuirk re arrangements for working with APPG and FSF. FINAL REMINDER Home Office Fire Risk Assessor Survey and Responsible Person Survey - A Final Reminder that the Home Office survey, which takes 10 minutes to complete, concludes on Friday 1 September 2023, “Reminded of Research Report: “Characteristics of modern domestic fires and the implications for product performance testing Research Report: 2021/027.” 25 August reports on Schools** [**https://amp.theguardian.com/education/2023/aug/23/staggering-incompetence-dfe-under-fire-new-school-buildings-closed**](https://amp.theguardian.com/education/2023/aug/23/staggering-incompetence-dfe-under-fire-new-school-buildings-closed)**;**

[**https://www.theguardian.com/education/2023/aug/23/staggering-incompetence-dfe-under-fire-new-school-buildings-closed**](https://www.theguardian.com/education/2023/aug/23/staggering-incompetence-dfe-under-fire-new-school-buildings-closed)**;**

**29th August ‘Inside Housing’ calls for the next government to Build Social. Today Inside Housing launched a new campaign: “Build Social. We are calling for all political parties to insert a commitment to build substantial numbers of social rent homes into their manifestos at the next general election”.**

**CONSULTATION: FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS (FIRE) (SAFETY) REGULATIONS 20XX - 29th Aug APPG Fire Adviser Ronnie King wants the APPG to be fully aware of all the facts and potential conflicts relating to the issue.**

**Having read some of the comments from FSF – Fire Adviser Ronnie King would just like to add that the difference of opinion over flame retardants has been going on since 2019 when the Government’s Environmental Audit Select Committee produced its report below:** [**https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvaud/1805/180502.htm**](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvaud/1805/180502.htm)**;**

**R King’s understanding is that when this new consultation says the Regs will be in place by 1 October 2024 then it is at odds with what I understand the position to be from BSI; where at an OPSS meeting in early 2022 British Standards BSI Committee FW/6 - that is going to be researching ignition standards, told everyone that they would need 5 years to come up with a standard once the OPSS directs the BSI Committee to proceed, and outlines what criteria to follow. Presumably this consultation is the start of a new process, which surely cannot then meet an October 2024 deadline, and which will take at least another 5 years to complete according to BSI (should this still be the process proposed)!!**

**The APPG will be asking for clarification over this question via the online FFS Regs Stakeholder Event on 18th September.**

**The APPG will also be asking why it has taken three years for Government to have STILL NOT implemented the Environmental Audit Select Committee’s Report of 2019?**

**It will also be asking what analysis Government has concluded from the fact that New Zealand (which hadn’t adopted any Flame Retardant Regulations), has had the same reductions in fire deaths over the whole of the period as the UK? If smoke alarms, automatic fire sprinkler protection and Fire Safety campaigns are having a significant impact on bringing down fire deaths, whilst at the same time chemicals in furniture and furnishings are impacting on increased toxicity and cancers to both the public and firefighters, then should consideration be given to removing/banning the more hazardous Flame retardants in furniture and furnishings, similar to the remainder of the EU and US?**

**It is accepted that as experienced Fire Officers our primary concern (as it was in 1988 when the FFS Regs were implemented) is to reduce fire deaths; but the more APPG Adviser R King reads about toxicity, chemicals, flame retardants and their impact in everyday life, then the more we should consider all the evidence, in our responses to this consultation. (As the APPG is made up of politicians, APPG Adviser R King has an obligation to at least explain both sides of the issue here). 30th August R King Attended Pre meeting to meeting with Schools Minister scheduled for 5th September attended with NFCC – BAFSA – Business Sprinkler Alliance – Zurich – NFSN – APPG.**

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

**1st September APPG Hon. Sec. R King Circulated Agenda and papers for the APPG meeting and Room change for the 5th September meeting with Education Minister Baroness Barran. (sent to fifty members of Parliament and Peers). 1st September APPG Invited to give “Keynote Speech and join a panel of speakers at Wembley Stadium on 26th October at a 2-day conference for October (25th & 26th) this year, in partnership with Sapphire Balconies and the Institute of Construction Management (ICM). The conference ‘Vision Construct 2023’ was being held at Wembley Stadium, in the Royal Suite and they are anticipating around 200 attendees each day. This is an annual event, now in its third year with attendees predominantly being architects from some of the UK larger practices, along with developers and other professionals from the construction industry including many industries. Both APPG Adviser R King and APPG Adviser Mike Wood gave it consideration, but other pressures didn’t synchronise. 1st Sept. APPG Adviser R King joined late to a FSF provisional meeting to discuss a response to the Fire Safety Domestic Furniture consultation from OPSS. 2nd Sept R King received email from T McDermott: re: “RAAC debacle on the news.- “Surely the Government don’t need any more bad news stories about building construction. Isn’t it time we started building infrastructure that lasts and is resilient instead of cheap and supposedly replaceable (at a cost)”? 4th Sept APPG Hon. Sec. Sent the “ZOOM” link access to 5th Sept APPG meeting with the Schools Minister which commences at 11am, to Mary Wedgwood for transcription. Also sent a list of non-passholders to Black Rod’s Garden Entrance for security at DfE meeting. 4th September APPG Adviser R King travel to London for briefing in Parliament ahead of 5th Sept. meeting with Baroness Barran. Overnight stay and attend pre-meeting with advisers ahead of APPG Meeting with Baroness Barran in Lords Committee Room “G”. Notified that Youssef Cockbaine, Interim Public Affairs Manager LFB wishes to represent LFB at the meeting. Meeting and post meeting followed by debriefing with Advisers and others. Lord Hendy notified APPG Adviser R King of an article from “Inside Housing” which states: “A Group of 29 Fire Safety experts call for a re-think over second staircases in a letter to Sec’ of State”. It will be raised at the meeting with Minister Lee Rowley MP. Lord Goddard asked where the rules for new Schools which the DfE are changing, came from? R King explained: “The current Department for Education’s Fire Safety Design Guide for new schools (called Building Bulletin 100) was issued in April 2007, with Schools Minister Jim Knight MP writing the EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. It provided an EXPECTATION that all new schools will have automatic fire sprinklers installed EXCEPT for a few LOW RISK Schools, and this would be determined by using a “RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT”**

**The Department for Education decided to revise this document between 2019 and 2021 and released it for consultation in May 2021 on its proposed revisions, which included removing the EXPECTATION that all new schools would have automatic fire sprinklers installed and determined that most new schools would NOT have sprinklers installed – EXCEPT for the few built which are:**

**Over 11 mtrs - SEN schools - And the sleeping accommodation only of Boarding Schools. (This consultation closed in August 2021 (two years ago) and the whole of the Fire Sector rejected the proposals). 7th Sept. APPG Adviser R King Prepared a briefing Note for Anna Firth MP who is a member of the APPG and of the Education Select Committee. Request received from Andrew Ledgerton-Lynch to hold a private lunch following his OBE Investiture in Buckingham Palace on 27th October 2023. Provisional arrangements made, Call received from Nicole Owen from OPSS Markets and Small Businesses. They are currently in the process of drafting a briefing for the Minister ahead of a meeting he is having with Bob Blackman MP, as chair of the APPG for Fire Safety and Rescue, on 19 September to discuss e-bike safety.**

**Nicole Owen and Lynette Falk were keen to arrange a call with APPG Advisers R King and Mike Wood for week commencing 13th Sept. and to understand if R King will be attending the meeting, and if so, whether he has a sense of the key points Mr Blackman might wish to focus on during the discussion. This would help us ensure the Minister is briefed to have a productive discussion in the time available. (pre-meeting arranged).**

**8th Sept. Correspondence from T Roche: “I was looking back at statements on schools and sprinklers and ran into the statement below. As we have had the announcement on demolishing schools which are modular I expect this statement of reassurance to come back at some stage. If we pull down a school and rebuild it how is that Net Zero”?**

[**https://news.sky.com/story/pupils-face-disruption-at-start-of-new-school-term-due-to-probe-into-school-buildings-firm-caledonian-modular-12950720**](https://news.sky.com/story/pupils-face-disruption-at-start-of-new-school-term-due-to-probe-into-school-buildings-firm-caledonian-modular-12950720)**;**

**APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Jonathan Dyson NFCC – who said: “We received an urgent communication from Mark Hardingham (on behalf of the Home Office) last night on RAAC and a return by Monday 11th 9am. He had spoken to his colleague Steven Adams at NFCC who may be able to assist further. APPF Adviser R king arranged a link to Steven Adams, who referred him to Nick Coombe NFCC whom R King already communicates with. 8th Sept APPG Adviser R King Arranged with House of Commons Dining for lunch for Andrew Ledgerton-Lynch for 27th October in Small Dining Room “C”. Transcription of minutes from 5th Sept. APPG meeting completed. 9th Sept. APPG Adviser R King’s initial contribution/questions in relation to the New Approach (Foam Filled Furniture Regs)” to ask at the Stakeholder Group event on 18 September: “My understanding is that when this new consultation says the Regs will be in place by 1 October 2024 then it is at odds with what he understands the position to be from BSI; where at an OPSS meeting in early 2022 British Standards BSI Committee FW/6 - that is going to be researching ignition standards, reportedly told everyone that they would need 5 years to come up with a standard once the OPSS directs the BSI Committee to proceed, and outlines what criteria to follow. Presumably this consultation is the start of a new process, which surely cannot then meet an October 2024 deadline, and which will take at least another 5 years to complete according to BSI (should this still be the process proposed)??**

**The APPG will be asking for clarification over this question via the online FFSRegs Stakeholder Event on 18th September.**

 **The APPG will also be asking why it has taken three years for Government to have STILL NOT implemented the Environmental Audit Select Committee’s Report of 2019? It will also be asking what analysis Government has concluded from the fact that New Zealand (which hasn’t adopted any Flame Retardant Regulations), has had the same reductions in fire deaths over the whole of the period as the UK?**

**If smoke alarms, automatic fire sprinkler protection and Fire Safety campaigns are having a significant impact on bringing down fire deaths, whilst at the same time chemicals in furniture and furnishings are impacting on increased toxicity and cancers to both the public and firefighters, then should consideration be given to removing/banning the more hazardous Flame retardants in furniture and furnishings, similar to the remainder of the EU and US?**

**It is accepted that as experienced Fire Officers our primary concern (as it was in 1988 when the FFS Regs were implemented) is to reduce fire deaths; but the more we read about toxicity, chemicals, flame retardants and their impact in everyday life, then the more we should consider all the evidence, in our responses to this consultation. (As the APPG is made up of politicians, Advisers have an obligation to at least explain both sides of the issue here).”**

**APPG Adviser R King prepared a letter for the Ukraine State Transport Service to consider sending to the UK Embassy in Kyiv, following meeting on the 2nd August. 10th Sept Hon. Sec. received email from Baroness Brinton apologising for missing the 5th September meeting with Baroness Barran due to illness. 10th Sept corresponded with Jonathan Dyson NFCC re updating the open joint letter which was sent in 2021 to the Sec. of State for Education re BB100. 12th Sept. Corresponded with Lord Hendy re the wording of the DRAFT minutes from 5th Sept.. Meeting. Liaised with APPG Bob Blackman MP before writing letter to Baroness Barran post meeting. One issue arises related to RAAC Concrete:**

**“The Department for Education chose to use incidence of fire statistics which included the COVID schools lockdown period, in order to illustrate RARITY OF SCHOOL FIRES then instead of using a figure of 22,000 schools in England it chose to inflate it to 69,000 buildings clearly to further its RARITY claim for the incidence of a fire!!**

**When quoting figures for schools impacted by the RAAC Concrete issue, it reverted to the 22,000 schools, presumably because the problem would have appeared larger had it referred to buildings!**

**We should not base long term investment planning for safety and protection when the risk EVENT is at its lowest level. Statistics can change rapidly over a very short timescale, as evidenced by the RAAC concrete issue in schools”.**

**Following 5th Sept meeting I DRAFTED a separate letter from the Chairman to the Baroness covering the points Lord Hendy made in the ‘follow up meeting’ and since updated as follows:**

**“Well what we really need to do, is to see what their risk analysis is, what their cost benefit analysis is? It seems to me completely indefensible because it's a very simple equation, isn't it? You've got the cost of taking the precaution on the one side, which is minimal for new buildings; against the likelihood of the risk occurring, which in all the figures is frequent; against the magnitude of the damage if the event does occur, which is not just the cost of the buildings, it includes the social cost to the children and the community as well. Applying that analysis it's quite clear that if the conclusion of the department is that fitting sprinklers to new school buildings is not justified, then their analysis must be faulty. If we could see their analysis we could perhaps comment on it”? 13th Sept. Notified by Simon Ince UL International that Karine Johnfroe (Vice President) was visiting UK and wanted to meet APPG in Westminster Parliament. Arranged for 28th September. 13th Sept. Discussed with Steve McGuirk FSF re Parliamentary briefings and consultations alignment plus Bi-annual FSF/APPG Briefings. for reporting to FSF next meeting. 17th September correspondence from Martin Boyd to consider a joint APPG covering Electrical and Gas Safety checks in blocks of flats. 18th September attended online 90 mins Stakeholder Event re Foam filled furniture Regs – new approach” submitted questions and received answers in advance. 19th Sept. Attended Dept. for Business & Trade at Old Admiralty Building London with members of APPG and Deputy Commissioner London Fire re Lithium Ion Batteries. Leaseholder Group meeting Parliament. Received email correspondence from NFCC Jonathan Dyson in relation to the APPG Chairman’s letter to Baroness Barran following the 5th September meeting and the updated Open letter revised to the Sec. of State DfE which asks for inclusion of a need to reduce the risk to firefighters and Emergency responders and exposure to contaminants. Notice received from S McGuirk and T McDermott via Inside Housing: Today marks 1 years since the devastating Lakanal House fire. With 95% of high-rise housing still without sprinklers:**

**labour.org.uk/makehomessafe pic.twitter.com/mazWGDJNAT; Arranged a TEAMS meeting with Steve McGuirk for 25th September. 20th September R King Met Ukraine Consulate Vtalli Borovko in House of Lords to discuss ongoing issues and to arrange a meeting with the new Ambassador to the UK, (Natalia Galibarenko). APPG Received a letter from Jennifer Amphlett Zurich Insurance in relation to the Environment Audit Committee and net zero carbon in schools. Notified APPG Members of the revised letter being sent by APPG Chair Bob Blackman asking for any comments before being sent. APPG Adviser R King Updated Lord Jim Knight on the follow up letter to Baroness Barran. He felt it was a bit long!! However it needed to be sent before Lord Knight had responded. (and since had a response). Tom Roche comments and proposals added in time. 20th September Forwarded to Dom Ellis (LFB Dep Fire Commissioner) APPG questions to the Foam Filled Furniture consultation and the official’s answers in RED. 21 September sent copies of construction Products Testing Report and copy letter to DLUHC Sec of State letter from APPG Chairman.**

**Karine Johnfroe Vice President of UL International USA. Visits Parliament in Recess 28th Sept meeting in Westminster Parliament. Booked the room and paid the initial deposit to HOC Banqueting for Andrew Ledgerton-Lynch OBE Investiture lunch. Received correspondence from Richard Jude OPSS re my questions and answers from the issues raised. 22 Sept. Arranged a “TEAMS” Call with Richard Jude OPSS and two of his colleagues for 11th October. 25th Sept “TEAMS” meeting with S McGuirk. 24th Sept. Returned HOC Function details forms to HOC Banqueting. Exchanged correspondence with Tom Roche re Building Safety Act Section 21 and some of the interesting clauses contained (it came up in a PQ asked of DLUHC Sec. of State. 25th Sept Corresponded with Mike Wood ahead of our meeting with Karin Johnfroe. 27th Sept. Received details over an issue raised with Sir Peter Bottomley relating to guidance needed by Caroline Ansell MP re a block of flats over 18mtrs and the role of Directors of the Resident Management Company , given the high costs of engaging a Building Safety Coordinator, and also when they are in such high demand. APPG Adviser R King referred it to two colleagues (Home Office) who would consult with their colleagues in DLUHC. It is an item on the agenda for the APPG meeting with Lee Rowley in view of a response not yet having been given. Caroline Ansell MP and Sir Peter Bottomley MP being kept informed. 28th Sept. Met with Mike Wood and Karine Johnfroe in Parliament and discussed a range of Fire Related topics as well as conducting a tour of both Houses and chambers. Consulted with Nick Coombe NFCC re the consultation: “DRAFT Guide for Fire Safety in Purpose Built Blocks of Flats.”**

**29 Sept Terry Edge (former OPSS employee) wrote to APPG Chairman asking for a meeting with the APPG re the Foam Filled Furniture Regs consultation. He was referred to liaise with APPG Adviser R King as time didn’t allow for a full meeting of the APPG ahead of the response date. R King discussed it on the telephone, and by email. 30th Sept. APPG Chairman Bob Blackman CBE MP added his signature to the updated open letter to the Sec. of State for Schools.**

**OCTOBER 2023**

**1st October 2023 APPG Adviser R King completed the necessary administration correspondence in arranging the Investiture Lunch for Fire Magazine Managing Editor Andrew Ledgerton-Lynch OBE in the House of Commons for 27th October, following his Investiture. APPG Adviser R King received further copy of DRAFT Open Letter to the then Rt. Hon Gillian Keegan MP Secretary of State for Education dated Sept 2023, updating the Open letter to the Rt. Hon.Gavin Williamson (former Sec. of State for Education) in response to the DfE’s consultation released two and a half years ago!! It was still being updated and signed widely by Fire related organisations across the whole Sector. 2nd Oct. APPG Adviser R King participated in online NFSN Executive meeting relating to Schools BB100 . 4th Oct Scottish Government announced move to consider installing automatic fire sprinkler protection in historic hotel conversions in the wake of the Cameron House Hotel fire. APPG Adviser R King discussed the NFCC’s response to the Govt. consultation on the DRAFT Guide for Fire Safety in Purpose Built Blocks of Flats. (It did seem premature with the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry shortly to publish its phase 2 report). APPG Adviser R King spoke and corresponded with Kate Lamble (Science & Technology Correspondent, BBC Newsnight and the producer of the BBC’s Grenfell Tower Inquiry podcast which followed the public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire since it began in 2018) (**[**https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p066rd9t**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p066rd9t)**). They had spoken previously as part of that podcast and for BBC Newsnight . She is currently working on a new series for BBC Radio 4, due to go out ahead of the final inquiry report, which is hoping to encapsulate what the inquiry has learnt about what went wrong to create the conditions for the fire at Grenfell Tower. She asked if, as part of that R King might have any time to speak to her and her team about his experiences as a member of the APPG on Fire Safety and Rescue. Particularly the years between 2013 and 2017 when the APPG was pressing Government for the recommendations from the Lakanal coroner to be carried out. 5th October APPG Adviser R King corresponded individually with APPG members updating them with further correspondence from DFE Minister Baroness Barran in response to APPG Chairman Bob Blackman MP’s letter. The Minister’s response also attached a copy of the cost benefit analysis which previously went to the Stakeholder Group and said that it would be published with the Consultation response. The Document prepared by GAD/RPA was (seriously flawed). The GAD/RPA had marked the Document: “Official sensitive – not for onward circulation”. And asked that the Cost Benefit Analysis is not shared further without its permission (then effectively operated anonymity in being contacted by stating that it was from “ACCOUNT UNMONITORED”!! R King asked the Minister’s PS to provide contact details as he had failed to be able to ask permission to share, only for the PS to fail to reply!! The Minister’s letter ended with the words: “I would like to Thank APPG members for the review of BB100 and their acknowledgement of the inclusion of measures that will improve the fire safety standards in school buildings”!!! (Wherever did the Minister arrive at that view, when the APPG has strongly rejected the proposals)?? One of the key issues raised at the post meeting of APPG Members and Advisers on the 5th September was to ask where the DfE was receiving its Fire Safety Advice from, and to ask that those Advisers attend the next meeting with the APPG and the Minister, where they can explain the basis of this Fire Safety advice? APPG Adviser R King invited to attend the NAADUK meeting on the 12th October at BRE, but had to give apologies due to amount of unfinished correspondence. APPG Advisers received Alan Brinson’s EFSN monthly report on his work in Europe. He asked: “I am now in Spain, where 13 young people died in a nightclub fire last weekend. Would a two-storey nightclub in the UK be sprinkler protected? To which R King’s reply was: “It isn’t a requirement - it all rests on a risk assessment and sprinklers are one of the measures recommended. Licensed premises come under the Licensing Act and compartmentation - Fire Doors - alarms and extinguishers plus alternative exit routes could be sufficient for a two storey building”. APPG Adviser Tom Roche replied: “From previous work it is clear that unless there is something else at play here these buildings do not have sprinklers. This is mirrored across most of the world.” 6th Oct. R King received responses from FSF, RIBA, IFE agreeing to sign the updated BB100 response letter to the consultation. 5th October new rules on APPG’s were released via the Committee for Standards and announced by Sir Bernard Jenkins MP, who chaired the Committee on Standards as acting Chair and agreed revised transitional arrangements for the new APPG rules, following strong representations from senior Members of the House signalling concerns about the proposals that were approved in July. The House authorised the Committee to agree transitional arrangements when it approved the new rules. When the Standards Committee meets again under its new elected Chair in October, there will be further discussion about these new rules.**

**The note from the Registrar of Members’ Financial Interests explains how the transitional arrangements will work. The rules prohibiting foreign governments from providing or funding (whether directly or indirectly) a secretariat, will still come into force with immediate effect on 16 October 2023. This reflects concerns raised by the Parliament’s Director of Security. During the transition period to 31 March 2024, APPGs should try to meet the requirement for 4 officers and no more, as this will become mandatory on 31 March 2024.**

**APPGs are not expected to comply with any other new rules until 31 March 2024; except that the rule providing that a Member of the House of Commons may be an Officer of a maximum of six Groups shall apply from the start of the next parliament (the ‘six groups rule’). 6th Oct. Steve McGuirk (FSF) signed the revised OPEN letter to the Sec. of State for Education on the BB100 consultation, which was being coordinated by Jonathan Dyson (NFCC Fire Suppression Lead) with assistance from Tom Roche and R King.**

**8th Oct. APPG Chairman Bob Blackman provided his signature to the Open letter to the Sec. of State for Education. APPG Adviser R King Received invitation to the Southend West Annual Dinner via Anna Firth MP with guest speaker Sajid Javid MP. APPG Adviser R King Travelled to Stafford overnight at Stone House Hotel prior to attending an NFSN meeting at Staffordshire FRS HQ. on 9th October. 9th Oct. APPG Adviser R King Received “TEAMS” invitation for a meeting with Richard Jude, OPSS Market Frameworks on the Revised DRAFT Foam filled Furniture Regs. 10th Oct. Parliamentary Security Directorate and the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards have produced guidance on ‘due diligence’ for APPG’s. R King - Dealt with by correspondence in consultation with Steve McGuirk (FSF) and Howard Passey (FPA). APPG Adviser R King Notified and followed up on the Luton Airport Car Park fire. Also Advised all APPG members and later spoke with Chief Fire Officer Bedfordshire.** [**https://x.com/BedsFire/status/1711939141426983312?t=FdVhVvQwK9eRAkqiY1xHKQ&s=09**](https://x.com/BedsFire/status/1711939141426983312?t=FdVhVvQwK9eRAkqiY1xHKQ&s=09)**;**

**11th Oct. Corresponded with Karine Johnfroe UL (International) USA, following her visit to UK Parliament on 28th September. Corresponded with Mike Wood and others re the Luton Airport car park fire. Added this to the list of issues to raise with DLUHC Minister Lee Rowley following a report the Department commissioned which recommended automatic fire suppression in such car parks.**

**APPG Adviser R King Attended a one hour online meeting with Richard Jude and two others from the Dept. for Business & Trade re “FF Furniture Regs – a new approach”.**

**12th October Further information on Luton Airport Car Park fire from Chief Exec. BAFSA:**

[**https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12622703/Luton-Airport-car-park-fire-sprinklers.html**](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12622703/Luton-Airport-car-park-fire-sprinklers.html)**; The tests found that the sprinkler system was 'effective at controlling a developing fire' and 'equally as effective at controlling a fully developed fire'.**

**It added that 'without sprinklers fire is likely to spread from car to car' and 'with sprinklers spread of fire is unlikely'.**

**The report also found that structurally, the steelwork was not affected until 30 minutes of fire exposure – and with sprinklers there, the 'steelwork remained unaffected for the duration of the test'.**

**MailOnline has contacted the relevant department – which is now the Dept. for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities – to comment on why the Government did not implement a mandatory sprinklers rule for car parks, despite the report 13 years ago stating their importance in mitigating fires.**

**13th October APPG Adviser R King Answered request from Stewart Kidd - former BAFSA Secretary General, for contact details for Ann Jones former Welsh Government. APPG Adviser R King Received further correspondence from Natalie Fenton re a ‘slot’ at the APPG for an item on “Wildfires and the need for a UK Fire Danger Rating System”. APPG Adviser R King Corresponded with Simon Ince on the visit of Karine Johnfroe to Westminster, and corresponded with Steve McGuirk FSF re proposals for its links to APPG to go to the FSF Board meeting. 15th October APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Baroness Brinton re her attending and speaking at the FIRE Conference at Savoy Place IET London on the 17th October. 16th October. APPG notified of the Commencement of section 156 of the Building Safety Act and progress in fire risk assessor competency. Letter from Director Sarah Gawley Fire & Major Events Directorate Public Safety Group (Home Office) 16th October 2023 refers.**

**17th October confirmed with Office of the Commissioner for Standards and all members of the APPG that it satisfies the new Rules relating to Due Diligence having been met, and which is available to see and inspect whenever necessary.**

**APPG Adviser R King also spoke with the Chief Fire Officer of Bedfordshire, Andrew Hopkinson regarding the diesel car that started the fire in the car park at Luton airport. The cause of the fire was still subject to verification, but there was nothing to indicate that it was anything other than an accident. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with former MP Jim Fitzpatrick re OfQual and a request for a presentation to APPG. R King also corresponded with Jonathan Dyson re Kate Lamble (Newsnight) re possible interview. 17th October APPG Adviser R King discussed with Baroness Brinton her presentation to the FIRE Conference in London on the same day, and also asked for feedback from those attending. Baroness Brinton’s input to the Conference was well received. 18th Oct. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Lord Hendy re the benefits of automatic sprinkler protection in enclosed multi storey car parks. He also received correspondence from Professor Shane Ewen FRHistS Leeds Beckett University re his Book Launch “Before Grenfell: Fire, Safety and Deregulation in Twentieth-Century Britain”, being held at the University of London on the 8th November. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Lewis Ramsay re OfQual, and corresponded with Chris Leese, Chair and Special Advisor – MPA UK Concrete, Special Advisor - Health & Safety, Mineral Products Association; re Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). 20th October R King received copies of the FSF and NFCC proposed responses to the FFFoam Regs – a new approach.**

**20th October APPG Adviser R King corresponded with APPG Chairman Bob Blackman MP suggesting that the APPG asks for a deferral in providing its response to the Government consultation being conducted by the Office for Product Safety and Standards, Department for Business and Trade into “The new approach to the fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture” CLOSES TUESDAY – 24TH OCTOBER 2023. He had some concerns as to whether the OPSS (Dept. for Business and Trade) has complied with the Environmental Audit Committee’s 2019 report and recommendations: “Toxic Chemicals in Everyday Life - Environmental Audit Committee - House of Commons (parliament.uk)”**

**On behalf of the Group the Chairman asked the Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee if he has been consulted on the “New Approach” from the Office for Product Safety and Standards and that he was satisfied that the new approach fully complies with the “Conclusions and Recommendations” outlined in the EAC’s 2019 Report, Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988 paragraphs 7 to 12? (please see the link below).**

**Toxic Chemicals in Everyday Life - Environmental Audit Committee - House of Commons (parliament.uk);**

**The response from the Committee Clerk suggested NOT, and the item was to be referred to the next meeting of the EAC Committee on 15th November.**

**(APPG Adviser R King was advised that the House’s standing orders do not routinely allow persons who are not MP’s or Committee Staff to observe private meetings of select committees).**

**20th October APPG Adviser R King corresponded further with Oliver Stallworthy Staff Officer to Deputy Fire Commissioner Dom Ellis LFB, re the outstanding notes from the meeting we attended with Dept. for Trade Minister Kevin Hollinrake MP. APPG Adviser R King made further attempts with PS Minister Lee Rowley to establish a date for a meeting with the APPG. Frequent staff changes have made this incredibly difficult to arrange!**

**23 October APPG Adviser R King exchanged further correspondence with Alan Draper and Ken Ingram following earlier meeting online with them in relation to EV chargers and fire blankets in underground car parks. 24th October APPG Adviser R King met with Christopher Boyle and Helen Newton NFCC online reference Schools BB100, and also the Closing date for FFFoam furniture Regs consultation – “A new approach”.**

**25th October 2023 R King participated in an “online” meeting with Poppy Wood (The “I” newspaper) re article in FIRE magazine:** [**https://fire-magazine.co.uk/significant-school-fires-spell-disruption-ahead-of-term**](https://fire-magazine.co.uk/significant-school-fires-spell-disruption-ahead-of-term)**;**

**APPG Adviser R King received an invitation from Claire Mahoney to BAFSA AGM in Liverpool on the 8th/9th Nov 2023. 26th Oct. APPG received a copy of BAFSA Focus and this was discussed with editing staff. 27th Oct. APPG Adviser R King travelled to Westminster to support FIRE Magazine Managing Editor Andrew Ledgerton-Lynch OBE and his family over Lunch following his earlier Investiture at Buckingham Palace. APPG Adviser R King shared and agreed minutes of meeting with the Dept for Business & Trade Minister Kevin Hollinrake MP with staff: Nicole Owen, Rene McTaggart, and Tim Miller (DBT). 28th Oct. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Sir Peter Bottomley MP re meeting Andrew Ledgerton-Lynch OBE on 27th October). 28th Oct. APPG Adviser R King followed up correspondence with PS Lee Rowley MP (changed several times inside a few weeks) to arrange the outstanding meeting. APPG Adviser R King wrote to Richard Jude OPSS seeking a deferral in the APPG response to the FF Furniture Regs , pending confirmation of matters raised with EAC Committee on its consultation, which was confirmed. 28th Oct. R King wrote separately to fifty APPG members to confirm the best date and time for the overdue meeting with DLUHC Minister Lee Rowley MP on either 14th or 15th November. (later confirmed as 14th November). 30th October R King held meeting with Alysa Remtulla Senior Fire Adviser Mayor of London.**

**NOVEMBER**

**1st November 2023 APPG Adviser R King corresponded with the late RIBA Architect Sam Webb’s three daughters who wrote: “thank you for carrying on the work that you and Dad did together, he would be so pleased and proud, as we are”. 2nd November APPG Adviser R King received email from Kate Lamble “Newsnight and Radio 4” - to confirm the interview with himself for 2pm on Monday 6th November at a room in parliament for Kate Lamble and Josephine Casserly. Also asking if R King could help book a room. APPG Adviser R King wrote to the Chairman of the Government’s Environmental Audit Committee the Rt. Hon. Phillip Dunne MP regarding the response the APPG Chairman received to his email, which sought confirmation that the 2019 EAC Committee report requirements had been satisfactorily undertaken by the Dept for Business, as it appeared that they hadn’t. The APPG Chairman offered to meet with the Committee to discuss. The EAC Committee clerk responded negatively as follows:**

**“You wrote (by email) to the Chairman of Environmental Audit Committee, the Rt. Hon. Philip Dunne MP on the 20th October 2023 seeking his confirmation or otherwise that the Environmental Audit Committee had been consulted on the “New Approach” from the Office for Product Safety and Standards, and that he is satisfied that the new approach fully complies with the “Conclusions and Recommendations” outlined in the EAC’s 2019 Report, Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988 paragraphs 7 to 12 (please see the link below):**

**” Toxic Chemicals in Everyday Life - Environmental Audit Committee - House of Commons (parliament.uk);”**

**On the 24th October 2023 you received an email response from Rebecca Lees, Second Clerk, Environmental Audit Committee; which states:**

**“I’m writing to you on behalf of Philip Dunne regarding your recent correspondence on the consultation on the fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture. You ask if the Committee has been consulted: the Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business did write to the Committee in August to inform it of the consultation but it is not an area that the Committee has looked into the detail of”.!!!!!**

**APPG Adviser R King found this response incredible, given that the same Committee (albeit with a different chair) in 2019 raised such safety concerns and recommendations in six numbered paragraphs of its report four years ago, as referred to in the link above! As a consequence The All-Party Parliamentary Group (Fire Safety & Rescue), with the approval of the OPSS held back its response to the Government’s proposals on its “New Approach), pending a response from the Environmental Audit Committee that all the Conclusions and Recommendations referenced in the link above, had been undertaken/met or otherwise - to the EAC’s satisfaction. The APPG letter said: “And if this isn’t the case then the Group would wish to understand on what basis has the OPSS been able to proceed with the New Approach outlined in its consultation” ?**

**And what discussions had taken place between the EAC and the OPSS on the status of the EAC’s 2019 Conclusions and Recommendations?**

**This was subsequently an agenda item on the 15th November EAC Meeting, following which the Chairman of the EAC Committee wrote to the Minister**:

 



**2nd Nov APPG Adviser R King Confirmed meeting and recording room for Portcullis House for the 6th Nov at 2pm. He also confirmed APPG meeting with Lee Rowley MP for 14th Nov at 2pm in Lords Committee Room 1. APPG Hon. Sec. R King Sent Agenda and issues to raise with Minister Rowley. Sent out invites, agendas and papers to APPG Members, Advisers and others for the 14th Nov. APPG meeting. Corresponded with Alysa Remtulla, London Mayoral Office.**

**4th November APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Adviser Tom Roche re a Govt. “Call for Evidence - The Environmental Sustainability of the Department for Education.”**

**The Environmental Audit Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the environmental sustainability of the Department for Education, based on the National Audit Office study commissioned by the Committee and published on 28 June 2023.**

**Background to the inquiry**

**In the June 2023 National Audit Office (NAO) report Department for Education: Sustainability Overview, the NAO examined how the Department for Education (DfE) fulfilled its sustainability remit. This covered:**

**• the Department’s approach to delivery and overseeing its sustainability strategy;**

**• the progress in the first year of its strategy and in meeting environmental obligations, and**

**• DfE’s capacity to include sustainable practices in new and existing schools, as well as its understanding of climate risk and energy efficiency of the school sector more generally.**

**DfE will need additional funding for this work, but it does not yet have a clear view of the sector’s current sustainability position, what interventions offer the best value for money and what it will cost to decarbonise the school estate?**

**Given the uncertainty around the additional funding that is likely to be available, it is important that DfE works with the sector to share evidence for what works, to encourage schools to use their capital and maintenance funds to make improvements in a way that also supports government’s sustainability objectives.**

**Policy context:**

**With regard to DfE, measures to implement these requirements was collated into a single Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy[5] (SCCS) which applied to not only DfE itself, but to all education and children’s services systems in England.**

**One aspect of this strategy is the school rebuilding programme[6], which carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at school and sixth-form college buildings across England. 400 projects are currently in the programme, with a commitment to undertake a further 100.**

**Terms of reference:**

**The Committee plans to examine the following key areas in the course of this short inquiry:**

**1. Departmental governance**

**2. Targets and their delivery**

**3. The education estate and its national sustainability picture**

**4. Funding of the strategy**

**5. Climate risks**

**5th Nov 2023 Call for Evidence - The Environmental Sustainability of the Department for Education:**

**The Environmental Audit Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the environmental sustainability of the Department for Education, based on the National Audit Office study commissioned by the Committee and published on 28 June 2023.**

**Background to the inquiry**

**In the June 2023 National Audit Office (NAO) report Department for Education: Sustainability Overview, the NAO examined how the Department for Education (DfE) fulfilled its sustainability remit. This covered:**

**• the Department’s approach to delivery and overseeing its sustainability strategy;**

**• the progress in the first year of its strategy and in meeting environmental obligations, and**

**• DfE’s capacity to include sustainable practices in new and existing schools, as well as its understanding of climate risk and energy efficiency of the school sector more generally.**

**The NAO concluded that the Department was still developing governance and accountability measures. DfE is taking steps to incorporate sustainability into its new build schools, but net zero schools delivered through the School Rebuilding Programme will only represent 2% of the estate when complete.**

**To make the most of the money it has available, DfE is testing ways to reduce emissions and adapt the schools at highest risk of harm from climate change. These measures will not make a contribution to achieving government’s overall goals that is in proportion to the scale of emissions from the school estate unless they are rolled out at a much larger scale, and relatively soon. As it stands there is no plan in place for achieving the scale of decarbonisation across the education sector that is needed for DfE to make a proportionate contribution to government’s targets.**

**DfE is planning to secure additional funding for this work, but it does not yet have a clear view of the sector’s current sustainability position, what interventions offer the best value for money and what it will cost to decarbonise the school estate.**

**Given the uncertainty around the additional funding that is likely to be available, it is important that DfE works with the sector to share evidence for what works, to encourage schools to use their capital and maintenance funds to make improvements in a way that also supports government’s sustainability objectives.**

**5th Nov. APPG Adviser R King gave a Briefing note to Lord Goddard re the Legislative position of BB100 “Fire Safety Design Guide for new schools.” As follows:**

**“The Department for Education’s Fire Safety Design Guide for new schools (called Building Bulletin 100) was issued in April 2007, with Schools Minister Jim Knight MP writing the EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. It provided an EXPECTATION that all new schools will have automatic fire sprinklers installed EXCEPT for a few LOW RISK Schools, and this would be determined by using a “RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT”**

**The Department for Education decided to revise this document between 2019 and 2021 and went out to consultation in May 2021 on its proposed revisions, which included removing the EXPECTATION that all new schools would have automatic fire sprinklers installed and determined that most new schools would NOT have sprinklers installed – EXCEPT for the few built which are:**

**a) Over 11 mtrs**

**b) SEN schools**

**c) And the sleeping accommodation only of Boarding Schools.**

**This consultation closed in August 2021 (two years ago) and the whole of the Fire Sector rejected the proposals.**

**6th Nov, APPG Adviser R King notified of Colleague APPG Leaseholder Group Chair, Martin Boyd having been appointed as chair of Government’s Leasehold Advisory Service. 6th Nov; and also notified APPG Members and colleagues of this. 7th Nov. APPG Adviser R King attended Westminster Parliament to discuss APPG issues with members and view State Opening of Parliament by King Charles 111 and Queen Camilla. 8th Nov APPG Adviser R King forwarded a list of updated issues to raise with Minister Lee Rowley MP and sought a response on a matter previously raised on behalf of Caroline Ansell MP re Fire safety in leasehold blocks : (Case Ref: CA27783) - Guidance in relation to the role of Directors of the Resident Management Company for a block of flats over 18 mtrs, given the high costs of engaging a Building Safety Co-ordinator and when they are currently in such high demand. Issue raised by Caroline Ansell MP and supported by Sir Peter Bottomley MP – referred to Matthew Armer (Home Office) and James Aulton (FSU) on 27th September – who were consulting with colleagues in DLUHC. APPG Adviser R King attended the Book Launch of Professor Shane Ewen, Professor of History at Leeds Beckett University being held at the University of London. Also attending were Andy Slaughter MP, Pete Apps of “Inside Housing”, Tom Roche (APPG Adviser) and twenty others with an Interest.**

**The book was titled “Before Grenfell – Fire Safety and Deregulation in Twentieth-Century Britain. APPG Adviser R King then Travelled by Rail to Liverpool after the Launch to stay overnight to attend BAFSA AGM and Annual Conference. APPG Adviser R King Received a copy of the “Firefighters Podcast” from Steve McGuirk which contains an interview with Peter Apps of “Inside Housing” R King also received a copy of the Home Office Fire Safety Reform Programme Bulletin from Freddie Amos and circulated this to APPG members. APPG Adviser R King received the minutes of the last NFSN meeting from Terry McDermott including the templates kindly offered by Nick Lacey of Wolverhampton Homes. Additionally APPG received a Call for Papers for Fire Sprinkler International at Croke Park, Dublin, 24-25 April 2024. 9th Nov. APPG Adviser R King received Fire Sector Federation latest newsletter. 10 Nov APPG Adviser R King received notice from D Davis of the next Fire Sector Federation meeting on 18th Jan 2024. (virtual).**

**APPG Adviser R King also corresponded with PS Baroness Barran as he had failed to get a response to his request for him to be permitted to circulate the GAD/RPA report accompanying the letter from the DfE Minister in reply to APPG Chairman Bob Blackman MP’s letter following the last letter from the Chairman to the Minister.**

**In order to obtain approval to circulate it was necessary to write to an email address which was unmonitored. On telephoning the number given APPG Adviser R King had to listen to music for fifteen minutes (as he waited to be answered). The telephone number given did state that it could take up to 15 days to get an answer!!! R King aborted the call and advised the Minister’s PS and he still doesn’t have permission to circulate the GAD/RPA report!! 13th Nov APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Alysa Remtulla London Mayors office, ref the LFB Event being held on 28th November in the MacMillan Room, Portcullis House, featuring Lithium-ion batteries. 13th Nov APPG Adviser R King notified by Jim Carol, Head of Office to Minister Lee Rowley MP that the DLUHC Minister has been promoted to Minister of State for Housing, and it is not clear yet whether his new role includes Building Safety & Regulations, so the scheduled meeting for 14th November has had to be postponed until December. APPG Adviser R King advised all APPG Members and Advisers/attendees of the postponement of the APPG meeting. 14 Nov. APPG Adviser R King contacted by APPG Vice Chair Baroness Brinton that a balcony collapsed onto the street just four yrs after construction in her apartment building whose freeholder is Barking & Dagenham Council. R King contacted a number of colleagues and APPG Advisers to get a collective view for advising the Baroness; and the Institute of Structural Engineers (CROSS) was a favoured port of call. Baroness Brinton was appreciative of all the advice given to her from colleagues. The incident featured on BBC News that day. One response said: ”The issue is not with the concrete or steel, but appears to be the use of untreated or unprotected softwood timber within the balcony construction which is vulnerable to the elements owing to poor drainage/protection detailing by the designer, incorrect specification/use of softwood, or poor construction by the contractor”.**

**From the photos, it would appear that elements of the structure were falling onto the pedestrian pavement and public highway. This is therefore a public safety issue which should be notified to the local authority via Report a dangerous building or structure - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). They can issue an improvement notice against the building owner. If it is less than 10 years old, then it should be under warranty, but the liability will likely be disputed between the designer and the contractor. However, the owner will need to respond to any LA improvement notice regardless of liability. 15th November Meeting of the Environmental Audit Committee took place with the first item a ‘closed’ discussion on the matter raised earlier in this submission relating to the Dept. for Business and Trade’s new approach to the Foam filled fire Regs. Subsequently the letter and Press Release was sent to Kevin Hollinrake MP, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business, Department for Business and Trade on 1st December 2023. 16th Nov. Funeral of husband of Gill Lee who is Office Manager to Anna Firth MP, and former Office Manager to the late Sir David Amess MP. APPG Adviser R King exchanged correspondence with colleagues who have been involved with meetings with the DfE in relation to the position re the BB100 Schools correspondence and the failure of DfE to resolve the embargo on the GAD/RPAS Document which accompanied Baroness Barran’s response letter to APPG Chairman, Bob Blackman’s letter.**

**The NFCC’s submissions to the Foam Filled Furniture Regs consultations can be viewed online:**

**Smarter Regulation: UK Product Safety Review; Smarter Regulation: Consultation on the New Approach to the Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture in the UK;**

**The Fire Sector Federation’s Response to the Smarter Regulation: Consultation on the new approach to the fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture has been added to Fire Sector Federation ‘Basecamp’.**

**17th Nov APPG Adviser R King received correspondence related to Government of Ukraine – Demining, which has featured in previous meetings with Home Officer Minister of State, the Rt. Hon. Chris Philp MP. 20th Nov. APPG Adviser R King confirmed his Entry in the Lords Register in Parliament. He received further correspondence from Natalie Fenton on behalf of Dr. Gareth Clay, University of Manchester, who wishes to address the APPG on Wildfires. 22nd Nov. APPG Adviser R King wrote to new Ukraine Ambassador Galibrenko to arrange a meeting with Lord Goddard and himself, once settled into her role.**

**APPG Adviser R King received a copy of the FBU’s response to the FF Foam Regs. And Received Details of the Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill from Simon Gibbins, which can be found at the Scottish Parliament Website**: **(**[**https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/housing-cladding-remediation-scotland-bill/introduced**](https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/housing-cladding-remediation-scotland-bill/introduced)**);**

**APPG Adviser R King received a copy of** **Procedure and Privileges Committee report: oral questions to secretaries of state - the ballot for the four questions to be asked on that date will open (Thursday 23 November) and be drawn on Thursday 30 November – Lord Goddard had submitted a request on Fire Safety and was successful. 27th Nov. APPG Adviser R King watched the Fire Safety - Oral evidence – Housing Committee - UK Parliament – Paul Morrell and Anneliese Day KC. 28th Nov. APPG Adviser R King attended LFB Open Event on Lithium-ion Batteries in Macmillan Room, Portcullis House with Toni Maddox. 29th Nov APPG Adviser R King attended Parliament PMQ’s and meetings with Lord Hendy KC, Lord Goddard, Lord Hazelhurst, Government Chief Whip, Simon Hart MP, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Bob Blackman MP, Mary Glindon MP and Kate Kniveton MP. 28th Nov. email from Tom Roche** – **Building Regulations: Fire Prevention: 27 Nov 2023: Hansard Written Answers – TheyWorkForYou; This is a question that is interesting. Although we know the answer already it is once again good to have these questions. Perhaps something for the APPG Meeting in December to follow up on.**

**DECEMBER 2023**

**1st December 2023 APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Alan Draper and William Beauchamp re Safety in high rise residential Buildings and Accountable Persons. – Understanding the roles and legal duties of accountable persons and the principal accountable person for a high rise residential building.**

**APPG Adviser R King received a letter from Business and Trade Minister Kevin Hollinrake MP via APPG Chairman Bob Blackman CBE MP following a meeting he attended in the Minister’s Office along with APPG Peers and MP’s in Sept 2023, relating to contact which the Minister made with major online food ordering and delivery platforms, asking them to share advice regarding e-bikes, including safe charging practices. This issue of safe charging practices has implications for automatic fire sprinkler installation, as the practice of safe charging increases with more usage of E-Scooters and E-Bikes. Notices received by R King from ‘Parlianet’ regarding library usage, Autumn edition of RED Benches, Westminster Hall Christmas Carol Service, and Members Open Day. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with PS Georgina Kester-Harrison following his meeting with Government Chief Whip Simon Hart MP. R King corresponded with Dennis Davis and others at the Fire Sector Federation re exchanges of letters and intervention from the EAC Committee in relation to the Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture Regs. OPSS consultation. 3rd Dec APPG Adviser R King Notified of a Press article claiming that Nearly 1,000 school buildings are believed to contain combustible materials similar to those used in Grenfell Tower, now banned in new schools, according to findings from a study shared exclusively with newspaper “i” . It also concludes that 120 school projects in England have been built using combustible façade insulation since 2018, when the material was banned from high-rise residential buildings due to its part in the Grenfell fire tragedy:**

[**https://inews.co.uk/news/education/900-schools-clad-combustible-material-banned-grenfell-fire-2788139**](https://inews.co.uk/news/education/900-schools-clad-combustible-material-banned-grenfell-fire-2788139)

**4th Dec. APPG Adviser R King notified of a village school in Tawstock nr Barnstaple closed following a fire, with one of the school buildings described as “well alight” Parents at Holywell Primary School in Tawstock, near Barnstaple, had been told the site will be closed on Monday "due to a significant incident".**

**Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS) said it attended from 02:00 GMT on Sunday, and found "one of the school buildings was well alight".**

**The cause of the fire at the school, which is more than 200 years old, is being investigated. One building suffered major smoke, flame and heat damage, DSFRS said. A total of five crews worked through the night and it was extinguished by 07:00 GMT, the service added: 4th Dec APPG Adviser R King took part (online) in the BSA meeting due to being ‘snowed-in’ at home and unable to get to London.**

**APPG Adviser R King asked By APPG Vice Chair Mary Glindon MP to have an initial meeting with a company (Motorola Solutions) regarding some new technology. 5th Dec APPG Adviser R King exchanged correspondence with former MP Jim Fitzpatrick who is a non-exec. Director of Fire Qual, and wished to meet a number of members of the APPG to discuss the role of FireQual. APPG Adviser R King placed the 13th Dec APPG meeting with DLUHC Minister Lee Rowley MP in the All-Party Notices. He also received correspondence from Claire Mahoney (BAFSA) confirming a FILMING interview in Carmarthen for 11th Dec. 7th Dec. APPG Adviser R King booked catering for 13th Dec. APPG meeting with PCH Caterers. Hannah Bardell MP, Lord Hendy KC, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Sir Desmond Swayne KC, Sir George Howarth MP, Peter Aldous MP, Caroline Ansell MP, Baroness Brinton, Lord Goddard; and Kim Johnson MP confirmed attendance at the APPG meeting subject to the earlier meeting ending in time. 9th Dec. Lord Goddard was successful in the ballot to secure a House of Lords Debate on the 14th Dec. titled: “The current state of Fire Safety Regulation in England, and the case for a new Integrated Review to update Fire Safety Guidance.” R King notified all APPG members. 11th Dec. APPG Adviser R King Participated in filmed interview for BAFSA 50th Anniversary with Claire Mahoney and cameraman (Mike….) in Carmarthen Ivy Bush Hotel. 12th Dec.. Defra Policy Paper – Timber in Construction Roadmap. – circulated to APPG. Arranged with HOL and HOC Tech support for extension microphones for recording the next day’s meeting on R King Parliamentary laptop. 13th Dec. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with PS to Minister Lee Rowley MP and sent a copy of the minutes from the last meeting with the Minister ahead of 13th Dec APPG meeting in Room “O” Portcullis House. R King travelled to Westminster for the APPG Ministerial meeting to set up “ZOOM” recording with extension microphones, and coordinate catering. Corresponded with APPG members re the correspondence from Business and Trade Minister Kevin Hollinrake MP re the EAC Press Release “Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture”. R King exchanged correspondence with Transcriber Mary Wedgwood re recording the APPG meeting minutes. R King sent audio and video ZOOM transcription to Mary Wedgwood. 14th Dec. APPG Adviser R King travelled to London Westminster for the second Fire Safety related event, which was a debate on “the current state of fire safety regulations in England, and the case for a new integrated review to update fire safety guidance.” held in the afternoon of Thursday 14th December in the Lords Chamber, and lasting 2hrs and 14 mins; which R King was pleased to witness. The Debate was led by Lord Goddard of Stockport who is a member of the APPG (Fire Safety & Rescue) and a Lib/Dem Peer; and can be viewed on BBC iplayer at:**

[**https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001tgds**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001tgds)**;**

**Automatic fire suppression featured prominently in the debate, together with a range of other fire and building safety matters raised over the 2hrs and 14mins; with a response from recently appointed Home Office Minister Lord Gascoine. (This debate is in the public domain and can be shared).**

**R King corresponded with Jim Fitzpatrick (former MP) re contact details for Shadow Minister Alex Norris MP, re: “Fire Qual”.**

**14th Dec APPG Adviser R King received notification of School sprinkler save at Wharton Primary School Northwich Cheshire, which had occurred on 24th Nov.- Fire involving a compressor within a room on the ground floor.- Extinguished by the sprinkler system.**

**15th Dec. APPG Adviser R King received Email from Chief Exec. BAFSA complimenting the quality of the briefing and the Debate held in the Lords the day before led by Lord Goddard; and the clear and powerful commitment they showed for fire safety and suppression. The necessary points were powerfully made. APPG Adviser R King exchanged correspondence with Jennifer Amphlett (Zurich) re the two events on 13th and 14th December and indicated the necessity of holding a tactical meeting on Schools in the New Year. 16th Dec APPG Adviser R King received a request from Claire Hoyland and Andrew Lynch (Fire Aid) for a Venue in Parliament to host a FIRE AID Launch Event in March 2024. Circulated APPG Members to sponsor. 18th December R King corresponded with Sandra Blemster of BAFSA re contact details for VIP invitations to BAFSA 50th Anniversary in Westminster (Lords). Dame Judith Hackitt appears to now be only publicly contactable through media “Speaking” outlets, and not making her contact details generally available. However she has been named as the new interim Chair of the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).**

**She will begin her appointment on 1 January 2024, taking over from outgoing Chair, Mark McAllister, who has been formally appointed as the new Chair of Ofgem. Dame Judith’s position is for an interim period during which a recruitment campaign will be conducted to select the next permanent ONR Chair.**

**Possibly an invitation can be sent to her via the ONR or alternatively via “ENGINUITY” an engineering charity which she also Chairs:**

[**https://enginuity.org/who-we-are/our-people**](https://enginuity.org/who-we-are/our-people)

**19th December Last day of Parliament before Christmas Recess – APPG Adviser R King met available MP’s, Peers and staff to exchange cards and well wishes. Whilst highlighting issues to prioritise in 2024. 20th December APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Tom Roche re the GAD/RPA figures sent by Baroness Barran. The provisioning figures from GAD were posted on 19th December.(the day before). These cover the period to the end of June 2023. They have repeated the Appendix cover fire claims into the RPA.**

**Tom Roche had clipped the summary table from the Appendix which again shows the average cost of a fire event was approaching £200k. What the figures do not show is that in the same table for the provisioning to 31st August 2022, the average cost of a fire event for the Academic Year 2020/21 was at £385,765 and 2021/22 it was £299,982. This is particularly eye-opening for the 2021/22 year as there has been an increase in the number of members who experienced a fire related event for that year and the average has gone up by £40K. Suggesting that the additional losses included a rather substantial school fire.**

**Either way these figures reinforce that something is missing in the GAD analysis of the numbers in the case for automatic fire sprinklers. Both an officer and Member (political) meeting needs to be held in the New Year to determine the best use of the information and the approach to Government. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Rob Barber (CFO Staffordshire) re the support of ProjectFire for promoting the case for automatic sprinkler protection. 21 Dec APPG Adviser R King Corresponded with Adviser Brian Robinson re future role with APPG. R King also corresponded with Mary Glindon MP’s Secretary re the loss of Mary’s brother. 22 Dec. Corresponded with Andrew Russell re loss of former Chief Fire Officer colleagues in 2023. APPG Adviser R King received Government Policy paper - Naming and shaming failing social housing landlords.**

**Government will begin naming and shaming failing social housing landlords on social media. From: the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. R King also notified by “Inside Housing” that Three more lenders offer mortgages on properties with building safety issues!!**

**23 Dec APPG Adviser R King corresponded with the late Sam Webb’s family re a visit to Highgate Cemetery following completion of the Headstone. 25th December APPG Adviser R King received Posts from Leasehold Knowledge Partnership: “We promised ‘fairness and transparency for leaseholders’ so let’s do it, says Bob Blackman MP.” 26th Dec. APPG Adviser R King corresponded with Gareth Simkins and Terry Edge re the APPG Chairman’s correspondence with the Chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee resulting in a request for certain matters to be clarified. 29th Dec. APPG Adviser R King exchanged further correspondence with T Edge re the Foam Filled Furniture Regulations and actions taken as a consequence of the EAC Committee’s correspondence.**

**JANUARY 2024**

**1st January 2024 APPG received a US Research paper from Simon Ince in relation to Lithium-Ion Battery fires. Shared with colleagues plus LFB and Department for Business and Trade. Adviser R King Notified of passing of former HM Inspector of Fire Services Don Kent. 3rd Jan circulated correspondence with APPG members from Business and Trade Minister Kevin Hollinrake re major ordering and delivery food platforms regarding Lithium-Ion batteries. 4th Jan APPG Adviser R King 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. APPG Adviser R King Exchanged correspondence with Tom Roche re articles on Lithium-Ion Batteries. 5th Jan News article received by APPG from T McDermott re School closure following Fire in Dean Trust School Manchester. Circulated to APPG members. APPG Hon. Sec. Liaised with Lord Goddard re sponsorship of a Fire Aid lunch to be held in the House of Lords, possibly March 2024.**

**9th January APPG Received correspondence from former MP Jim Fitzpatrick with a view to an APPG meeting with FireQual. Circulated APPG members for 23rd January date in Portcullis House. Date agreed and refreshments booked. APPG Advser R King Exchanged 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 in Parliament.**

**APPG Adviser R King 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 AMBASSADOR to the UK.**

**10th January APPG Hon. Sec. corresponded with Sandra Blemster (BAFSA) re contact details for Dame Judith Hackitt. 11th January Notified individually, all APPG members of the meeting with FireQual for the 23rd January. 12th January Lord Goddard reached agreement on a date for the FIRE AID fundraising Lunch – for Thursday 21st March 2024. 15th January – APPG Hon. Sec. Wrote to APPG Members re invitations to BAFSA 50th Anniversary Lunch on 8th February 2024. 16th January APPG Chairman 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. 16th January confirmation from Lord Stunell of his attendance at the FireQual meeting on 23rd January 2024. 17th January Lords Members attended Lords Members Open Day – Houses of Parliament. APPG Adviser R King Exchanged further correspondence with Kate Lamble BBC Newsnight re Grenfell Tower report. Reported School fire in Hove Sussex.**[**https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/24058928.blatchington-mill-school-hove-remain-closed-fire/**](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 break 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 now in custody after being arrested on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life.**

**18th January APPG Adviser R King attended online FSF Forum meeting. Fire Safety Strategy discussed.**

**20th January Large Industrial fire in Bridgend South Wales. – notified to APPG and colleagues:**

[**Huge fire caused building to collapse in minutes - BBC News**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-68040512.amp)

[**bbc.co.uk**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-68040512.amp)

**22nd 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.**

**23rd 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. 23rd January – Huge fire in Commercial area of Manchester – reported to APPG members. 23rd January Members and Adviser R King 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. In summary the comment from Douglas Barnett captures the discussion: “So I’ve chaired the BAFE for seven years but I’ve been involved in risk management for the insurance sector for 30 years. My passion has been in cooperative work and keeping people safe. What Grenfell did was prove that you can’t keep everyone safe. And if you look at Judith Hackitt’s report it’s about how the fire sector did not work together. It talks competence, it talks how people started getting round regulations etc, and that was known in the sector. That was known, I think, and has come out in the Hackitt report. For me, with a business, a hotel, a restaurant, a shopping centre, I want to know they are competent. I want to see all their certificates. Who is somebody independent I can go to and say if I procure this work for a shop, a factory, a hotel, that you are competent and can come to advise me and is competent for that type of business and that type of building. Some buildings are really complicated buildings that have changed over the years. That’s why it’s not just people with knowledge in the fire sector – we’ve got to bring new people into it and make sure they’re competent and they actually have a career from start to finish. And that’s giving kids a career from leaving school, an apprenticeship, and then through the years developing that. That’s where we at FireQual see we’re providing the mechanisms, the security around qualifications. As you go into the sector you can go and improve your competence, expand your knowledge etc. I want to keep people safe, we insure risk, there’s a lot of money involved, and the first thing we do is keep people safe. Nobody wants to see things go wrong, so we need basic qualifications and knowledge to make sure the right people are around to do it – that’s how we do it. The insurance sector – we are there to facilitate that, so somebody going to do the works as a consultant, making sure they’re competent. So if something goes wrong the insurance sector’s behind them to give that reassurance. Also as a quality provider because before we give that assurance, check they’ve got the correct qualifications and that what they’re doing is the most appropriate.”**

**23rd 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 22nd November 2022 - 7th February 2023. The government response can be found here:** [**Click**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-building-safety-levy-consultation/outcome/building-safety-levy-response-to-consultation)

**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 consultation response confirms the government’s intention that:**

**• Local Authorities act as the levy collection agents, and may retain a proportion of Levy income to support on-going operating costs.**

**• Local Authorities will need to provide quarterly returns of revenue and data to the Department for Levelling-Up Housing and Communities.**

**• Developers will have some flexibility as to when they pay the levy, provided that it is prior to building control final/ completion certification.**

**• There will be a differential geographic levy rate based on local authority boundaries, which will be set by the Secretary of State in secondary**

 **legislation.**

**• There will be a discounted levy rate for brownfield sites.**

**• Certain types of residential accommodation will be exempt from the levy including affordable housing and other community facilities such as NHS**

 **hospitals and other NHS care facilities, accommodation for our armed forces, criminal justice accommodation, children’s homes, domestic abuse**

 **refuges and care homes. .Government also intends to exclude developments of fewer than 10 units.**

**• The Levy may be reviewed by the government every 3 years.**

**Government also launched a further short consultation focusing on the technical design and implementation of the Building Safety Levy. The consultation will close on 20th February 2024 and asks questions on the following topics:**

**• Methodology for Levy Calculation**

**• Collection Process**

**• Disputes and appeals**

**• Further exclusions**

**The further consultation can be accessed and completed directly using the following link:** [**click**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/building-safety-levy-technical-consultation)

**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****;**

**The Building Safety Levy Team**

**23rd January 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. Join us to understand better how local councils can benefit from the levelling up agenda and what steps they need to take to prepare for devolution. You will hear from speakers with experience in local government and councils successfully navigating the devolution process. They will share their understandings, best practices, and lessons learned, giving you a helpful perspective on succeeding in a devolved environment”. Speakers: Adam Hawksbee (Onward), Sophie Hosking, (Cornwall Council) and Cllr Carl Les (North Yorkshire Council).”**

**25th January – APPG received copy of video clip from Claire Mahoney BAFSA shown at the 50th Anniversary BAFSA event in Parliament. APPG Hon. Sec. R King 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-VoJKfIS7f6VosfAmvu824lXZCFwFBCJhQuAWg\_aem\_AYk3y8iqP7n4wyHobtCjLjx-DYCipgiq74TuOpIO4rnmEfgXmQpKRx9wsl5rZcT3ARg\*lrq98t2puu8x9tobtha\_\_;Iw!!OekYeeAJtX8!i5Ar\_BbYwGNInrzWJxer6SRAjKFQFwaHk\_7dseId-llNwSKojFFJjw69aUP94zUD03Kxe9\_XOgP1zqciX71UlD3g$**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/live-updates-reports-explosions-homes-28494539?utm_source=app&fbclid=IwAR0WZ3a59hHmT4qCzNhsO-VoJKfIS7f6VosfAmvu824lXZCFwFBCJhQuAWg_aem_AYk3y8iqP7n4wyHobtCjLjx-DYCipgiq74TuOpIO4rnmEfgXmQpKRx9wsl5rZcT3ARg*lrq98t2puu8x9tobtha__;Iw!!OekYeeAJtX8!i5Ar_BbYwGNInrzWJxer6SRAjKFQFwaHk_7dseId-llNwSKojFFJjw69aUP94zUD03Kxe9_XOgP1zqciX71UlD3g$)

**25th 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.**

**Offer of support received from Andrew Ledgerton-Lynch with communications re the APPG when needed. 26th January Received notes from Fire Sector Federation Forum meeting. There were excellent contributions form Tom Roche, Steve McGuirk and Simon Gibbins. 26th January – Notice received of the passing of former Chief Fire Officer of Northamptonshire Arthur Steel. 26 January notice received of he next NAADUK meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express - Swindon West Frankland Road, Blagrove SN5 8UD on the 22nd February. Start time will be 10:30am. “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.”**

**27th January :Notice received by APPG of large fire in Liverpool Centre:** [**https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-68118572**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-68118572)

**30th January – APPG notified by Dennis Davis Fire Sector Federation that the foundations are in place for a competence-led built environment.**