

Item Number	Item 8 – Paper 5
Title of Paper	General Progress
Decision or Information	For discussion and decision
Date of Meeting	15 th June 2022
Presented by	Fire Standards Team
Attachments	Appendix A – Communications Evaluation Fire Investigation Appendix B – Revised Terms of Reference Appendix C – Extracts from the Home Office White Paper - Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service 2022

Summary

This paper provides the Board with a summary of general activity relating to the Board and Fire Standards. This includes:

- Chairs' meetings and engagements;
- Communications planning, engagement and evaluation;
- Terms of Reference – for approval; and
- Proposed Board response to the Home Office's White Paper – ***Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service 2022*** for discussion and agreement.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

1. note the contents of this paper;
2. review and, if content, approve the revised Terms of Reference; and
3. agree what response the Board should make to the White Paper.

Chairs' Meeting and Engagements

Since the last Board meeting, the Chairs have met with the following stakeholders on a range of topics including:

- Welsh Chief Fire Officers and HMI – Feb 2022
- Visit to Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – March 2022
- Attendance and presentation at the LGA's Fire Conference – March 2022
- Attendance at the Home Office's White Paper launch – May 2022
- Attendance and Presentation to the NFCC - Full Council Meeting – May 2022

Future engagement planned by the Chairs and/or members of the Fire Standards Team include:

- NFCC Digital and Data Conference – June 2022 (Fire Standards Team)
- Lancashire FRS and Merseyside FRS Service Visits – July 2022
- Impact Assessment Engagement Workshops – July 2022

Communications Planning and Engagement

Communications work such as monitoring and contributing to social media feeds, publishing news articles on the website and contributions to other organisations' newsletters has continued in liaison with the NFCC Portfolio Communications Team.

A communications and engagement strategy is in place and a communications plan and timeline will be developed following the Board's approval of the third phase of Fire Standards development.

Impact Assessment Engagement Events

The Chairs will attend three engagement events planned for July and September. The aim of these events is provided in more detail in Paper 3 – Impact Assessment. In summary they are designed to provide an opportunity for in-person discussions with the Single Points of Contacts for Fire Standards or a nominated strategic level manager for each service to attend. The events will allow the Chairs and the team to discuss the initial impact of the Fire Standards and the actions being taken around the country to implement them.

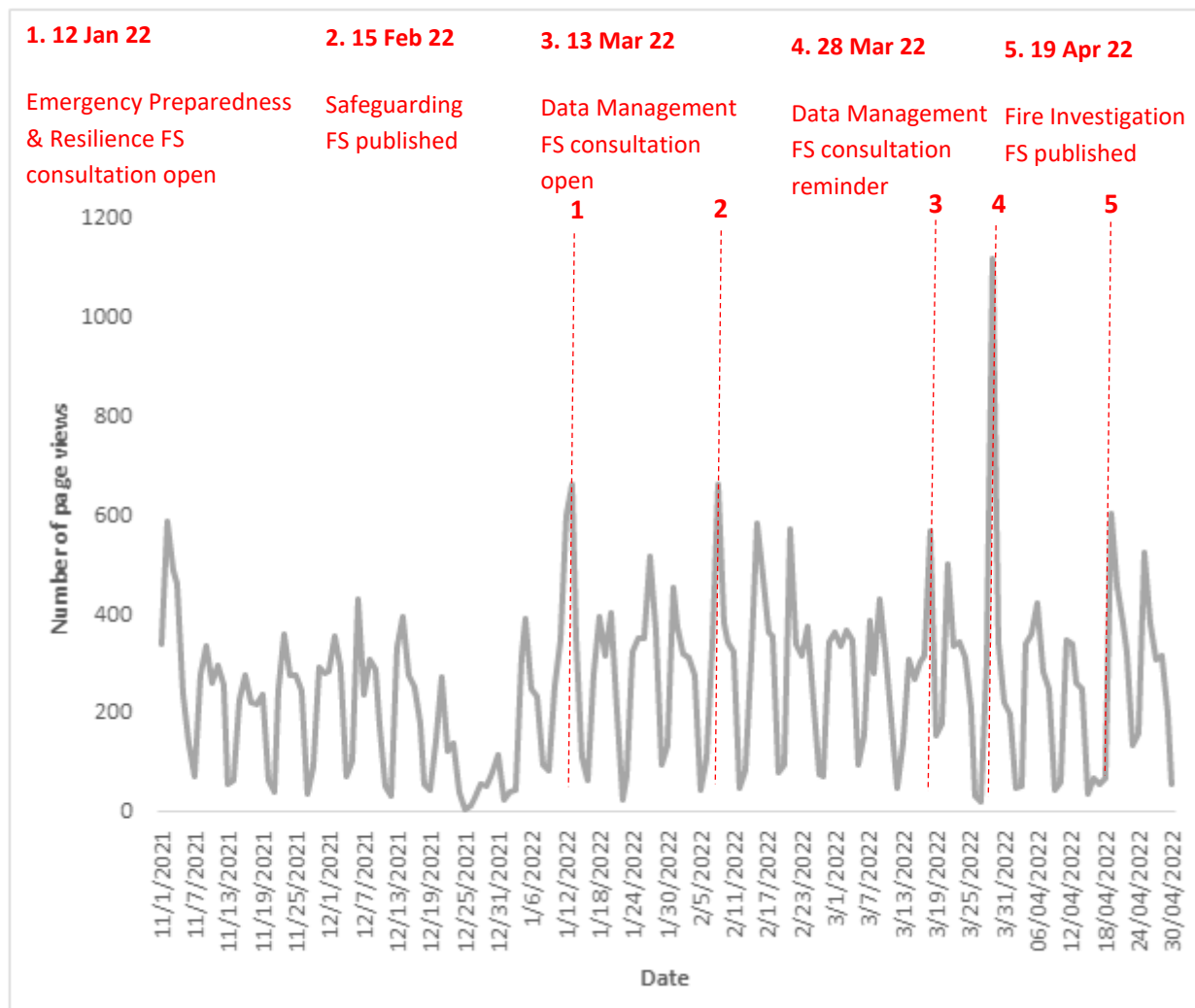
Communication Evaluation – Fire Investigation

Following the first report into evaluating the effectiveness of our communications in supporting the Safeguarding Fire Standard, as part of increasing our proactive communications activity, we have built evaluation into the process. The team has carried out an evaluation of the communications that supported the Fire Investigation Fire Standard consultation.

We have attached the evaluation report at Appendix A. The evaluation includes some observations which the Team will be reviewing and acting on to enhance our approach in the future.

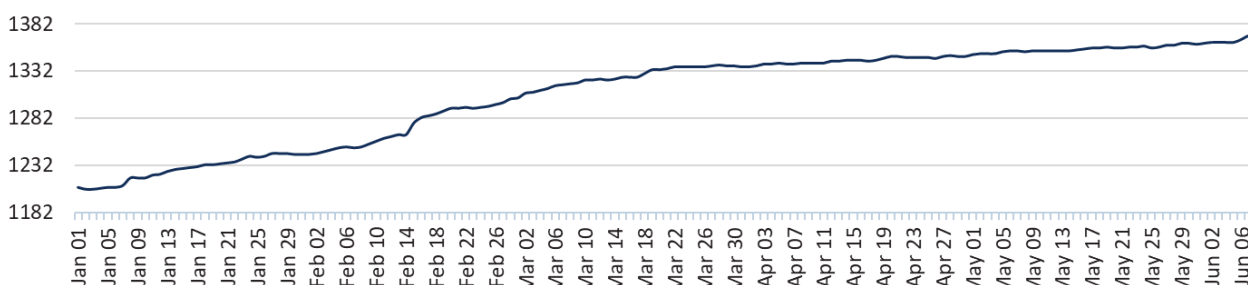
Website and Social Media Activity

Below is a chart showing activity on the FSB website since the last update.



Twitter

The FSB Twitter account has **1.4k followers**. The chart showing the increase in followers over the past 6 months is shown below:



Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were reviewed at a workshop with Board members held in February 2022. Subsequently, revisions to the Terms of Reference have been made based upon the feedback received. Please see **Appendix B** for the revised version.

Any further comments should be raised for discussion at the Board meeting.

Fire Standard Board response to the White Paper

The Board is provided with the relevant extracts from the Government White Paper entitled Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service 2022 as found in **Appendix C**. It is proposed the Chairs draft a response to the White Paper which indicates the Board's commitment to progress with the development of the suite of Fire Standards until the conclusions of the consultation are known. The Board are invited to discuss this approach.

Fire Investigation Fire Standard Communications Evaluation Report

FIRE
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Fire Investigation Fire Standard launch

CAMPAIGN EVALUATION

Communications Aims and Objectives

As reflected in the Fire Standards Board Communications Strategy



Objective 1

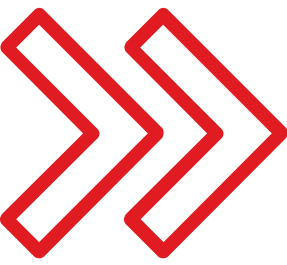
- To **establish creative and innovative ways of communicating** to support the successful implementation of fire standards by all fire and rescue services in England within six months of launch.



Objective 2

- To **support effective stakeholder engagement**, ensuring that the right audiences are reached using the most appropriate channels in a timely way, enabling inclusion opportunities for all throughout the development process.

Communications channels



Other communication channels used to support the launch of the Fire Investigation Fire Standard includes a letter to Chiefs (sent via direct email) as well as direct emails to SPOCs and those on the Fire Standards Board mailing list.

As we cannot track analytics of these channels they have been discounted from this report.

Channel 1

FSB website

Channel 2

Social Media

Channel 3

Workplace (Fire Standards, Prevention)

Channel 4

NFCC Member newsletter

Channel 5

Trade press

Channel 6

NFCC Sharepoint

Channel 1 performance

FSB WEBSITE

The launch of the Fire Investigation Fire Standard was shared as a news story on the Fire Standards Board website.

The consultation page was the third most popular page in terms of pageviews for April, with 512 pageviews and an average time spent on the page of 3 minutes and 47 seconds. The first and second pages being the Home page and Approved Standards page.

Most people visited the FSB website directly to find out more about the standard (245 sessions), with 75 sessions generating from the UKFRS website.

The logo for the Fire Standards Board is displayed on a light gray rectangular background. The text is arranged in three lines: 'FIRE' in a dark gray, sans-serif font; 'STANDARDS' in a bold, red, sans-serif font; and 'BOARD' in a dark gray, sans-serif font.

FIRE
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Channel 2 performance

TWITTER

A Twitter 'Thread' was shared on launch day, which included the tagging of specific people involved in the project. The tweet included a video from Fire Investigation Lead Chris Blacksell, which was optimised for the channel.

LAUNCH TWEET

19 April: 8 Profile Clicks, 10 Likes, 7 Retweets and 1 Comment
(second post of Thread): 5 Likes, 2 Retweets

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- This tweet received 2,126 Impressions
- There were 541 views of the accompanying video
- This tweet received 86 engagements, including 8 Profile Clicks

TRAFFIC

There were 32 sessions on the FSB consultation page which came directly from Twitter posts relating to the launch.

Channel 2 performance (continued)

LINKEDIN

One tweet was posted to announce the launch of the Fire Investigation Fire Standard. The launch post included the supporting Fire Investigation launch video.

LAUNCH TWEET

19 April: 31 Reactions, 43 Clicks, 5 Shares

There were 731 Impressions in total.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

During the last 30 days (Apr-May 22), there has been:

- 127.3% increase in Page Views
- 87.5% increase in Unique Visitors
- 107.7% increase in New Followers
- 151.1% increase in Post Impressions

Channel 3 performance

WORKPLACE SITES

A link to the Fire Investigation Implementation Tool was shared to the Fire Standards Workplace site:

Fire Standards: 30 Views

TRAFFIC

There were 5 sessions on the FSB consultation page which came directly from Workplace posts relating to this launch.



Channel 4 performance

NFCC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

The Fire Investigation Fire Standard launch was included as part of the April Member Newsletter.

There were 243 Opens (50.94%) with 194 of those Opens resulting in Click-Throughs.



Channel 5 performance

TRADE PRESS

The Fire Standard Fire Standard launch news story was sent to the following press outlets:

- FIRE magazine
- Emergency Services Times
- UK FIRE (special feature)
- Fire Safety Matters Magazine
- Worshipful Company of Firefighters

The following coverage was received:

- [Fire Safety Matters magazine](#)
- [Emergency Services Times](#)
- [FIRE magazine \(online\)](#)
- A special feature in UK FIRE magazine (print)

FIRE magazine
225 followers
1d • Edited •

The [Fire Standards Board](#) has announced the launch of the tenth professional Fire Standard; Fire Investigation

The Fire Investigation Fire Standard focuses on ensuring fire and rescue services deliver effective, efficient and valid fire investigations into the origin, cause and development of fire. The development of this standard has been led by [National Fire Chiefs Council \(NFCC\)](#) Lead for Fire Investigation, [Chris Blacksell DL](#) and the NFCC Fire Investigation Committee.

Chair of the [Fire Standards Board](#), Suzanne McCarthy said:

"The Fire Investigation Fire Standard builds on our increasing portfolio of professional Fire Standards, driving continuous improvement across the sector.

"Thank you to those individuals and services for their work in bringing the standard together; ensuring that like all of our published standards, it's been developed by the sector, for the sector, and is a benchmark of good practice."

Find out more: <https://lnkd.in/enwSyKfm>



Launch of the Fire Investigation Fire Standard | FIRE
fire-magazine.com • 2 min read

FSM Fire Safety Matters Magazine and Website
5,054 followers
12m •

The Fire Investigation Fire Standard is the tenth Professional Standard to be introduced by the [Fire Standards Board](#) and focuses on ensuring that Fire and Rescue Services deliver effective, efficient and valid fire investigations into the origin, cause and development of fires. Read more on the Fire Safety Matters website <https://cutt.ly/EGgyKpx>



SFJ Awards
819 followers
2d •

We are pleased to see our qualifications linked to the new Fire Investigation Standard, approved by the [Fire Standards Board](#):

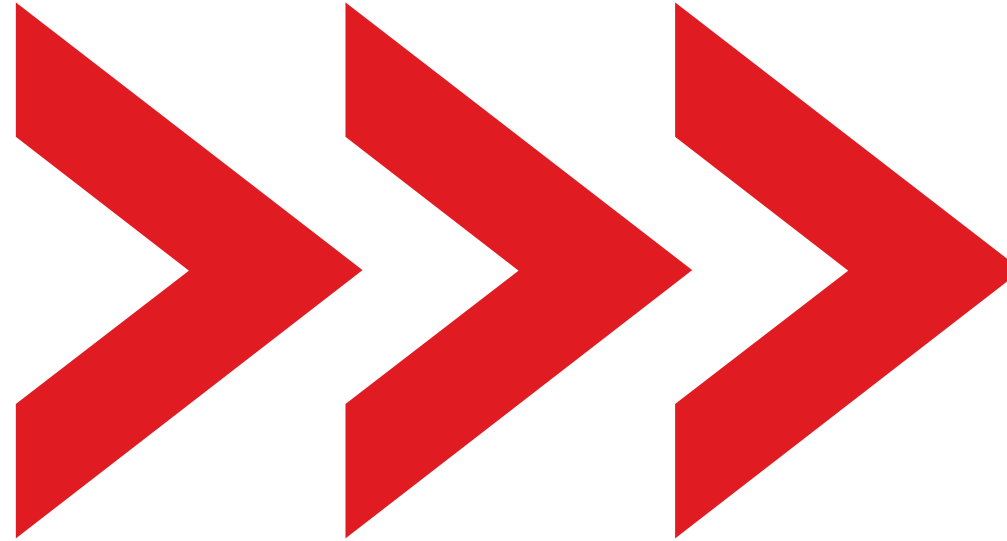
- ✓ Level 5 Award in Fire Investigation: Theory & Practice
- ✓ Level 5 Certificate in Fire Investigation

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3xGju4k>

[#FireInvestigation](#) [#FireStandards](#)



UK FIRE special report



The Fire Standards Board launches the Fire Investigation Fire Standard

The Fire Investigation Fire Standard (FIFS) is the 10th professional fire standard produced by the Fire Standards Board (FSB) and focuses on ensuring fire and rescue services (FRS) deliver effective, efficient and valid fire investigations into the origin, cause and development of fire.

One of the desired outcomes of the FIFS is that services will have a competent and resilient capability to undertake fire investigations, adhering to relevant legislation, guidance and codes of practice. The Fire Investigation Fire Standard also makes reference to the ISO 17020 Conformity Assessment.

The development of this standard has been led by NFCC Lead for Fire Investigation, Chris Blacksell and the NFCC Fire Investigation Committee.

One of the expected benefits of achieving the Fire Standard is the improved safety and wellbeing of members of the public (FRS communities) and FRS employees by identifying risk and communicating product safety issues. More expected benefits can be found within the standard, available on the Fire Standards Board website.

▼ Suzanne McCarthy, Chair of the Board.



As with all Fire Standards, there's a corresponding Fire Standards Implementation Tool to support services with the implementation. The tool was designed to support services in assessing how well they meet the standard, helping them to build an action plan to identify and address any gaps.

Chair of the Fire Standards Board, Suzanne McCarthy said: 'The Fire Investigation Fire Standard builds on our increasing portfolio of professional Fire Standards, driving continuous improvement across the sector.'

'Thank you to those individuals and services for their work in bringing the standard together, ensuring that like all of our published standards, it's been developed by the sector, for the sector, and is a benchmark of good practice.'

Fire Minister Lord Greenhalgh said: 'I'm delighted to see the launch of the Fire Investigation Fire Standard which will support all Fire and Rescue Services to follow a consistent and robust process when conducting these investigations.'

'Fire investigators perform a vital role in helping to improve public safety, not least through contributing evidence to the justice system and supporting the development of prevention, protection and operational response activities.'

'I am also comforted to know that this standard will champion post-incident wellbeing support for investigators, aiding their health in conducting their challenging roles.'

There are more Fire Standards currently in development by the Fire Standards Board, which are: Emergency Preparedness and Resilience, Data and Leadership Fire Standards.

Whilst it is not mandatory for services to comply with the Fire Standards, the National Fire Framework makes clear that services are expected to pay due regard to Fire Standards as will the HMICFRS in their inspections. The Fire Standards Board anticipates that in many cases services are already achieving the outcomes which are the foundation of each Fire



▲ A firefighter attends the scene of an incident.

FIRE
STANDARDS
BOARD

Standard. Where they are not, they accept that services will need to implement any changes to enable them to achieve the standards in a way that fits with their strategic planning, improvement work and timetable.

The Fire Investigation Fire Standard and its accompanying Implementation Tool can be viewed at the Fire Standards Board website.

For more information, go to
www.firestandards.org

Channel 6 performance

NFCC SHAREPOINT

The Safeguarding launch was shared as an article to the NFCC Sharepoint channel.

This article saw 12 Views.



Supporting information

FIRE STANDARDS BOARD YOUTUBE

The Fire Investigation video which sees NFCC FI Lead Chris Blacksell discussing the standard, has so far received 35 Views on YouTube.

The logo for the Fire Standards Board is displayed within a light gray rectangular box. The text is arranged in three lines: "FIRE" in a dark gray sans-serif font, "STANDARDS" in a bold red sans-serif font, and "BOARD" in a dark gray sans-serif font.

FIRE
STANDARDS
BOARD

A wide, light gray horizontal bar with a subtle gradient, serving as a background for the title text.

Fire Investigation Fire Standard

Recommendations and key learnings

- Familiar communication channels were used to launch the Fire Investigation Fire Standard. As this Fire Standard is predominantly aimed at Fire Investigators, it is considered 'niche' and therefore engagement levels were expected to be lower in comparison to previously launched standards, such as Safeguarding.
- Search engines was the second most popular channel used to access the Fire Investigation Fire Standard, with Twitter and LinkedIn being the third and fourth most popular. The NFCC website was the least popular referral. Most people access the website directly,
- Regular posting on LinkedIn is helping to build awareness that the Fire Standards Board LinkedIn page exists.
- Using tags on the Twitter post to thank those directly involved with the development of the Fire Standard helped to generate a discussion and consequently wider reach.
- There were some good examples of trade press. Features lists and opportunities were explored and in doing so meant that UK FIRE magazine could include the launch as part of a special report into Fire Investigation.
- Workplace engagement (although there were five referrals) and NFCC Sharepoint engagement still tends to be low.
- As demonstrated in previous reports, this report indicates that people are most likely to engage with social media posts but will visit the website directly. It should be noted that there are no analytics available for direct emails so it is not possible to measure the success of this channel.

Terms of Reference

1. Role & Purpose

The role of the Fire Standards Board (FSB or Board) is to oversee the identification, organisation, development and maintenance of Fire Standards for fire and rescue services in England for the benefit of the profession, the services and the communities and the public served by them.

The Board has responsibility for agreeing priorities and its workplan; oversight of standards in development; approval of final standards produced; and consideration of the published standards and whether they remain current.

The Board considers the work of other standards producing bodies and organisations and will reference or adopt equivalent existing standards, wherever appropriate.

The Board monitors the effectiveness of the standards produced for the profession to support continuous improvement, including considering feedback from HMICFRS on how standards have been implemented.

The Board engages with key stakeholders, as and when appropriate, in multiple ways.

2. Membership

The Board has a Chair and Vice Chair, both independent from Government and the fire and rescue services. Their roles are to lead the Board in ensuring that the Fire Standards support the professionalism of the sector and the highest quality delivery of services to the public.

Other Board members represent key stakeholder organisations. Their role on the Board is to represent the interests of their organisation in discussions, but to take decisions collectively in the interests of fire and rescue services as a whole.

One representative is put forward by each key stakeholder organisation with authority to take decisions as part of the Board discussions. In the interests of continuity, this should be the same representative at all meetings.

If a Board member is unable to attend a meeting, in certain circumstances and in agreement with the Chair, they may nominate an appropriate alternate representative to attend on their behalf. If this is agreed, then the nominated representative must have the same authority to take decisions. Board members may invite members of their organisation's staff to attend meetings as observers to support them in their role.

The Board has the following members:

- Independent Chair
- Independent Vice Chair
- Home Office representative
- National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) representative
- Local Government Association (LGA) representative
- Police, Fire & Crime Commissioners representative (via the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners - APCC)

3. How the Board operates

The Board is supported by the NFCC through its's Fire Standards Team who act as secretariat to the Board.

Specialist specific subject matter experts or guests may be invited to attend the Board, as and when required, in line with the agenda and in agreement by the Chair. This is likely to be in relation to specific pieces of work or agenda items. If this is the case, the Fire Standards Team will inform all Board members of their attendance in advance.

The Board may invite representatives from HMICFRS to attend meetings, as and when, required.

Board meeting agendas are prepared by the Fire Standards Team in agreement with the Chair. Board members may raise any items for the agenda. Meeting papers are distributed one week in advance of each meeting. The Chair approves the agenda and chairs Board meetings. If the Chair is absent, their role is taken by the Vice Chair.

Board Members are free to express their own views within the context of a Board meeting discussion.

Board members are given an appropriate amount of time to consider any decisions required of them.

Whist the Board aims to make decisions by reaching consensus through discussion, it is accepted that decisions may be based on a majority decision to allow work to progress. Once a decision is reached all Board members must abide by it.

The Fire Standards Team is responsible for preparing the meeting's minutes after each meeting and agreeing their content with the Chair before distributing them for comment to the Board.

The initial term for the Board is five years, in line with the anticipated programme of work to develop professional standards. This term may be varied in line with the funding available.

The Board will conduct an annual review of these terms of reference and revisions will be made, if agreed appropriate.

4. Accountability

The Board is responsible for approving Fire Standards and the approach to their development. The Board sets the priorities for standards development work. They commission work based on proposals presented to them, monitor progress with ongoing work and approve completed work.

The Board seeks to ensure that any standards presented to them for approval have:

- been developed in line with the agreed development process;
- undergone appropriate consultation with subject matter experts and relevant stakeholders; and
- undergone an independent quality assurance process.

5. Development of Standards

The Board is responsible for the creation and maintenance of a framework of Fire Standards that is applicable to, or in use within, fire and rescue services in England.

The Board commissions the NFCC Fire Standards Team to coordinate and facilitate on their behalf, to do so, it:

- Considers the developing fire and rescue landscape informed by outcomes and recommendations made as a result of inspections or inquiries; the fire reform programme; the findings from or impacts of research; operational or organisational learning from past incidents; and legislation;
- Identifies gaps within the framework, and priorities for new or revised standards;
- Works with key partners to plan and align standards development work in line with their strategic objectives, change and improvement programmes;
- Reviews proposals for work to be completed and commissions work;
- Agrees delivery plans for the standards and monitors delivery against them;
- Ensures published standards remain current and fit for purpose using learning or information on impact assessment, benefits realisation and periodic review;
- Commissions work to review and revise published standards, as and when, required;
- Builds and maintains relationships with fire and rescue services, including those in the Devolved Administrations to encourage their involvement in the development of the fire standards and to inform similar work they may commission and approve; and,
- Communicates with stakeholders, including HMICFRS, to inform them of progress, discuss any factors which may impact standards and gather feedback, as necessary.

As part of the development process, the Fire Standards Team ensures wider stakeholder groups have the opportunity to contribute to, and be consulted on, standards both directly and through various engagement channels including via the NFCC's network of committees, groups, engagement forums.

5.1 Fire Standards Team

The Fire Standards Team provides secretariat support to the Chair, Vice -Chair and the Board, which includes:

- Organisation of meeting dates, venues and inviting Board members to meetings;
- The preparation of meeting agendas, papers and minutes in liaison with the Chair; and,
- Coordination and planning of communications and engagement activity, for and on behalf of the Chairs and the Board.

The Fire Standards Team facilitates and coordinates development work, it is responsible for:

- Preparing proposals for and planning standards development work;
- Facilitating development work when commissioned including coordinating external quality assurance of the development of a Fire Standard;
- Managing the periodic review cycles of published standards;
- Monitoring and informing the Board where a standard may need revision outside of the agreed review cycle; and
- Monitoring impact assessment, benefits realisation and periodic reporting on these subjects to the Board;

The NFCC and its members are responsible for:

- Nominating a relevant national lead officer to sponsor development work and provide subject matter expertise and strategic direction; and
- Contributing to the development of proposed content for the standards with support from the Fire Standards Team.

Stakeholders (which can include the NFCC) are responsible for:

- Producing guidance and other related materials that may underpin or support the standards.

6. Board Member Behaviours

Members of the Board are expected to operate in line with the principles set out in the [Cabinet Office's Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies](#).

The Code sets out the standards expected of those who serve on Boards in the UK public sector.

7. Meetings and Secretariat

The Board meets as frequently as required, but no less than four times per year.

Meetings of the Board may be held in person or via remote communication. The arrangements and venue for meetings are made known to Board members in advance of each meeting.

The Chair and Vice-chair may meet with members of the Fire Standards Team, as and when needed, to discuss outcomes from previous Board meetings, matters arising in between meetings and preparations needed in advance of future Board meetings.

White Paper – Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service 2022

The extracts below from the White Paper are provided to inform discussion about any response the Board may wish to make:

Page 19 - Clear Expectations

“A hallmark of professionalism is the creation and implementation of clear expectations. While local flexibility is important, robust and consistent national standards help improve the quality of service provided to the public.

Currently, the independently chaired FSB is tasked with creating and maintaining fire standards (the documents through which the FSB sets clear expectations for services) for fire and rescue services. Eight fire standards have now been published, ranging from operational matters such as community risk management planning to issues related to culture and ethics. A 9th fire standard on safeguarding is due to be published imminently. The FSB is supported in this work by the NFCC’s Central Programme Office. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England requires services to implement these standards. HMICFRS will have regard to them in their inspections.

We want to build on the successes of the FSB and ensure we continue to set clear expectations. We want to ensure effective implementation in support of the fire and rescue Reforming Our Fire and Rescue Service: Government Consultation 20 profession. We also want to consider how best to ensure that there is a continued close link between these common expectations and the guidance that supports their implementation, including National Operational Guidance.”

A College of Fire and Rescue (pages 9, 23 and 24)

“On Professionalism, this white paper examines how we can continue to support fire and rescue professionals to help them better protect their communities. Our reform plans set out Reforming Our Fire and Rescue Service: Government Consultation 9 our ambition for an independent College of Fire and Rescue focussed on the following five areas:

- *Research*
- *Data*
- *Leadership,*
- *Ethics*
- *Clear expectations for fire and rescue services*

Subject to the response to the consultation, this College of Fire and Rescue could be located at an existing body such as a training provider, fire and rescue service or other professional body. This could include the Fire Service College (FSC) at potentially no cost, for example, given its historic links to government. The FSC is one of a number of training providers, all with a similar market share,

available to fire and rescue services. We would like to hear from potential hosts to understand where the proposed college could be located given the potential benefit to both the host and the college of co-location. The proposed college should take on the functions carried out currently by the Fire Standards Board, which sets out clear expectations for the sector. Development opportunities for staff should include support for progression to leadership roles and development schemes to identify and nurture talent. Further, we want to examine the opportunity to support a consistently positive culture within services through the creation of a statutory code of ethics and a fire and rescue service oath.”

“We therefore want to explore our ambition for the creation of a College of Fire and Rescue (CoFR) to be the independent body to support our fire and rescue professionals to best protect their communities. Through providing a permanent body of independent expertise and sharing the outputs of its various proposed strands of work, the independent CoFR could provide a vital aid to services in implementing the reforms outlined in this white paper.

We will carefully consider the creation and appropriate remit of a CoFR using the views gathered through this consultation. We would want to ensure we prioritise areas of work that add greatest value to services, making best use of available resources. We are therefore seeking views on which of the five opportunities for further professionalisation should be priorities for the proposed independent CoFR.

By way of example, the proposed independent CoFR could have the following remit:

- *on **Leadership**, developing and maintaining courses such as Leadership Programmes and direct entry schemes*
- *on **Data**, providing a home for a strategic centre of data excellence - on Research, housing a central research function to ensure that research is prioritised, conducted effectively, and shared*
- *on **Clear Expectations**, taking on responsibility for the creation of fire standards, building on the work of the Fire Standards Board*
- *on **Ethics**, the proposed independent body could be provided with powers to create and maintain the proposed statutory code of ethics and fire and rescue service oath, and also keep practical implementation of the code and Oath under review*

The remit outlined above could help ensure that these vital activities are conducted in a sustainable and independent manner by an organisation dedicated to undertaking this work. Placing multiple strands of work in the same organisation focused solely on their delivery would allow each strand to be supported by the others. Taking the examples above, a CoFR could allow expectations of services to be informed by the latest research and help leadership programmes to be imbued with strong ethical principles.

We also want to make sure that the proposed independent CoFR has the power to effect further improvement in fire and rescue services. We therefore wish to consider whether it should be given legislative powers to support its work. These could mirror the powers held by the College of Policing

under the Police Act 1996, as amended by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014, or could involve the extension to the College of Fire of the powers held by the Secretary of State under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. For example, legislative powers provided to the CoFR could include the power to issue statutory codes of practice with the approval of the Secretary of State.

It should be noted that the remit of the NFCC extends significantly beyond the functions outlined above. Therefore, if the independent College of Fire were to be created, a strong co-operative working relationship with the NFCC would be vital in achieving the aims of both organisations.”

Q27: To what extent do you agree/disagree with the creation of an independent College of Fire and Rescue to lead the professionalisation of fire and rescue services?

Page 20 - Ethics and Culture

Code of Ethics

“In response to the HMICFRS recommendation, the Local Government Association, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and the NFCC developed a core code of ethics that all services should embed in their work. This is a positive first step, but we want to consider whether more is needed to ensure we have a consistently positive culture in all fire and rescue services.

The current code has no legal status but is supported by a fire standard (the documents through which the Fire Standards Board sets clear expectations for services) which requires services ‘adopt and embed’ the code. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, to which fire and rescue authorities must have regard, provides that all authorities must adhere to these clear expectations. The duty on fire and rescue services to adhere to the core code is therefore indirect and we are seeking views on whether to place a code on a statutory footing (a ‘statutory code’) to ensure its application in every service. This could involve the creation of powers in legislation, when parliamentary time allows, to create and maintain a statutory code. These powers could enable a statutory code to be created or amended via secondary legislation. If follow the outcome of this consultation the government proceeds with this proposal, the core code could be subject to review before being placed on a statutory basis.”

Q16: To what extent do you agree/disagree with the creation of a statutory code of ethics for services in England?

Q17: To what extent do you agree/disagree that placing a code of ethics on a statutory basis would better embed ethical principles in services than the present core code of ethics?