

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item 8 – Paper 5</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>General Progress</b>
<b>Decision or Information</b>	For decision
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
<b>Presented by</b>	CPO
<b>Attachments</b>	None

## Summary

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

- Engagement activity
- Communications
- Update on baseline data and benefits realisation

## Recommendations and Decision

The Board is asked to:

- note the contents of this paper; and
- confirm it is content with the current approach to setting benefits for standards, noting the future work being done in this area.

## Chairs' Meeting and Engagements

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

- Rachel Atkinson, Home Office - 22 April 2021
- Digital and Data Programme Team – 22 April 2021
- NFCC full council meeting – 26 May 2021
- FSB Chairs and NFCC Chair and Vice Chairs meeting – 27 May 2021
- Fire Standards Risk workshop (internal) – 23 June 2021

## Fire Standards Team presentations

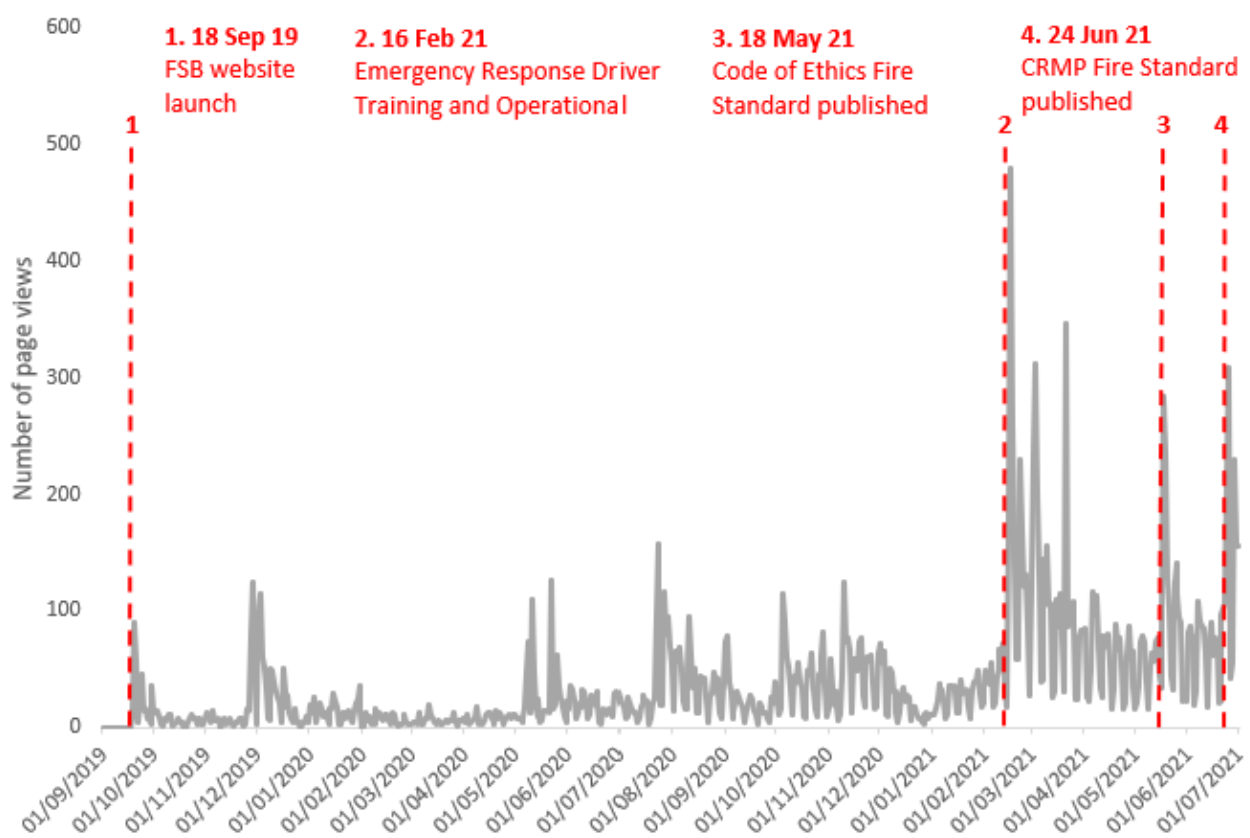
The Fire Standards team has also had the opportunity to engage with individual services and the NFCC network through subject matter expert and practitioner groups as listed below:

- Leicestershire FRS Middle Managers Forum – 23 April 2021
- NFCC Prevention Board - 8 June 2021
- NFCC Protection and Business Safety Committee – 24 June 2021

## Communications

The FSB website is the place where information about the Fire Standards can be found. The purpose of much of our communication is to drive traffic to the website where readers can find the information they need.

The launch of the Fire Standards has seen an increase in website traffic driven by the communications plan, especially through the use of social media. The chart below shows the peaks in page views which correlate to the launch of each Fire Standard so far.



## **Baseline Data and Benefits Realisation**

At the previous two Board meetings, there were discussions about how the Board can assess the impact and effectiveness of the published Fire Standards.

These discussions covered the subjects of where data could be sourced to both establish the baseline of service performance prior to a Fire Standard being published, and the data to measure the extent of improvement post-publication, if any.

It was agreed that the Board would receive an annual report giving an assessment of the impact and effectiveness of each published Fire Standard. The first of these reports will be presented to the Board's December meeting.

At the last Board meeting, with Zoe Billingham in attendance, the offer was made by HMICFRS to share information which may help the Board assess both impact and benefit.

The team has approached HMICFRS to initiate discussions about the data sources and content available. They are waiting for a response and will provide an update at the October Board meeting.

In addition, the team will be liaising with the NFCC Implementation Team as it gets established, to assess what information may be derived from direct dialogue with, and feedback from, services.

The team has also been in dialogue with the Digital and Data Programme which is working on the concept of a National Data Hub. The data sets required to inform the Board about Fire Standards' effectiveness have been submitted as part of the Programme's early work to test the data hub concept.

### **Benefits**

Following the most recent Fire Standards developments in respect of both Fire Protection and Prevention, the associated working groups have raised questions about benefits and what they should relate to or be derived from. For example, they wondered if there should be benefits which are a result of the Desired Outcome being achieved or as a result of the services implementation of a Fire Standard in line with the How to Achieve section of the Standard. In the early drafts of both standards the proposed benefits were incredibly detailed and not easy to measure.

To date the published Fire Standards have included benefits set at a fairly high level. The Board when discussing this aspect observed that there would be value in the benefits being more outward facing relating specifically to benefits for the community.

The team is seeking expert advice about the best approach to benefits in the context of the Fire Standards and will report on progress to the October meeting.

In the meantime, the benefits on the Fire Standards being submitted for Board approval will follow the principles applied to the Fire Standards already published and will primarily be derived from the Desired Outcome statement. Taking this approach will prevent delays in publication of those Fire

Standards in the pipeline. As the Board periodically reviews published Fire Standards, when it does so it can always redefine the benefits of those standards already published.

## **Recommendation**

For the Board to discuss and agree it is content with the approach explained above.