

Item Number	Item 7 – Paper 3
Title of Paper	General Progress Update
Decision or Information	For information
Date of Meeting	31 st July 2023
Presented by	Fire Standards Team
Attachments	None

Summary

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

- General Progress with Fire Standards
- Update on Equality Impact Assessment of Fire Standards
- Chairs' meetings and engagements
- Communications planning, engagement, and evaluation.

Recommendations and decisions required.

The Board is asked to note the contents of this paper.

General Progress – Fire Standards

Since the last Board meeting in March, we have published the Fire Control Fire Standard and the Communication and Engagement Fire Standard. Including these two standards, the number of Fire Standards in the suite is now 16.

We have recently scoped, and peer reviewed a further four Fire Standards (See Item 5 – Paper2).

The Fire Standards Team (FST) have also been working with colleagues at the NFCC and the wider sector to review both Leadership Standards and the Safeguarding Standard to meet the recommendations aimed at the Fire Standard Board within the Inspectorate's Values and Culture in the fire and rescue service report. Workshops led by the FST are scheduled for this month to review those standards. (See Item 4 – Paper 1).

Fire Standard Change Request – Code of Ethics

A change request was received by the team from within the NFCC regarding adding in an additional word to the outcome statement.

It was highlighted in the “how to” section we say, **“promote and embed a positive and inclusive culture.”** The change request asked if we could add **“inclusive”** to a similar sentence in the outcome statement.

The original Outcome Statement is shown below with the relevant sentence highlighted in red:

*A fire and rescue service which has embedded and is committed to the ethical principles and professional behaviours contained in the Core Code of Ethics (Core Code) and in so doing **generates a more positive working culture** and continuously improves the quality of service to the public.*

This is evidenced by the attitudes and conduct of those who lead and all who work for, or on behalf of, the service and that the service operates according to corporate ethical business practices.

The revised sentence would read, **“generates a more positive and inclusive working culture”**.

We have followed our change request process and have deemed this to be a minor change to the standard. The Chairs have been consulted and agreed with the change.

This update is provided to the Board for information in line with the agreed process.

Equality Impact Assessment

Following the impact assessment workshops held with services during 2022, feedback was received regarding the level of equality impact assessment undertaken on Fire Standards.

This matter has been discussed between the FST and the Chairs. Whilst it has been agreed that equality impact is primarily assess through our peer review and consultation processes, it was felt it may be appropriate to have a statement on this subject available on the website.

A statement on this subject is being prepared for future publication on the website. It will be submitted to the Board for approval before publication.

Communications and Engagement

Chairs' Meeting and Engagements

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

- Service visit to Cornwall FRS (meeting CFO and SLT and those responsible for the Fire Standards within service) - May
- Service visit to Essex (meeting SLT and those responsible for the Fire Standards within service in conjunction with the Implementation team) - June
- LGA Fire Commissioners meeting (to promote Fire Standards) - June
- Virtual meeting with Andy Cooke and Roy Wilshire (HMICFRS) (to promote Fire Standards and strengthen working relationships) - June
- Virtual meeting with Nick Ross, Chair of the NFCC Trustees (introductions and to promote the FSB and Fire Standards) - June
- Virtual meeting with Roy Wilshire (HMICFRS) (routine catch up with the Inspectorate) - July

Future engagement planned by the Chairs are listed below, also attending may be FST members:

- Meeting with Fire Minister- TBC
- Leicestershire FRS Service Visit – TBC
- West Sussex – TBC
- Meeting with Ms Jones MP Shadow Minister for Fire- Sept
- South Yorkshire FRS- Oct
- Humberside FRS- Oct
- Attendance at Emergency Services Show (provisional) - Sept

Communications and Engagement Plan

Following the approval of the Communications and Engagement Strategy at the last Board meeting, the FST have now developed a communications and engagement plan and schedule.

This will be used to help coordinate communications and engagement activity over the rest of the year. The priority being to engage with services about how they are approaching achievement of the Fire Standards and ensuring they have the support they need from the NFCC Implementation Support Team where required.

Website and Social Media Impact

Platform	Apr 23	May 23	June 23
YouTube subscribers	59	60	60
Twitter followers	1523	1568	1603
LinkedIn followers	420	420	490

