

BOARD PAPER

Item Number	Item 5 – Paper 2
Title of Paper	Subjects for Potential Fire Standards
Decision or Information	For information
Date of Meeting	2 July 2026
Presented by	Fire Standards Team

Summary

This paper provides an update on possible emerging topics which may necessitate the development of new fire standards.

The Board is asked to:

- note the contents of this paper

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Following discussions with the NFCC Digital, Data and Technology (DDaT) Hub in 2025, the Fire Standards Board delivery objective for 2026/27 included exploration of the need for the standards to set out how services can utilise AI in a safe way.

The DDaT team have already produced guidance, toolkits and workshops to support services in this space and continue to support the sector with their approach to AI.

The FST is expected to commence discussions with the DDaT team in August 2026 with the expectation that a feasibility study report and options be brought to the Board in late 2026.

HMICFRS has undertaken a pilot thematic review of cyber in a limited number of Police Forces and FRS and are expected to release the accompanying report in Autumn 2026 which will inform this feasibility study.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

As part of the 2026/27 Fire Standards Board Delivery Plan, the Fire Standards Board agreed to conduct a feasibility study on the sector's need and desire for a Health, Safety and Wellbeing Fire Standard. The driver for this being several factors, including:

- The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care's call for improved health and safety support for firefighters
- Increased focus on firefighter safety/deaths/health issues from contaminants, including research conducted on the impact of contaminants by NFCC and FBU
- Updates to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) standards under British Standards
- Introduction of the new NFCC Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee.

Following recent approval from the NFCC Chiefs Council, the new Committee has been established, chaired by CFO Craig Parkin. The Committee is responsible for developing sector-wide strategies, toolkits, and guidance to protect firefighters and staff, improve workplace resilience, and foster supportive, healthy environments across all UK Fire and Rescue Services. The FST are scheduled to meet with CFO Parkin in July 2026 to discuss further.