BOARD PAPER

FIRE STANDARDS BOARD

Item Number	Item 6 – Paper 3
Title of Paper	2026/27 Business Planning
Decision or Information	For information and decision
Date of Meeting	5 March 2026
Presented by	Fire Standards Team

Summary

This paper presents the items proposed for inclusion in the Fire Standards business plan for 2026/27, which forms part of the NFCC / MHCLG annual business plan for funding purposes.

Recommendations

- Board to agree the items presented form the FSB's Business Plan 2026/27.

Forward Planning Cycle

Following the Board's discussion at its December meeting, the objectives have been expanded to reference evaluation work and engagement and participation in consultations.

The 2026/27 Business Plan continues the work currently underway particularly the review of the suite of Fire Standards, to consider subjects for new standards and raise greater awareness of Fire Standards in the sector. It also considers other needs and areas for focus including the impact of support to the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG), in particular through practical work for the task and finish groups looking at the creation of a College of Fire and Rescue and sector values and culture.

The Fire Standards team will continue to support the ongoing evaluation and benefits management work. As part of this, the team will support the continued development of competencies including the impact competency frameworks and competency methodology may have on the suite of Fire Standards.

The proposed objectives for 2026/27 are:

- **Engagement in wider sector initiatives**
  Demonstrating the value and role of Fire Standards to support continuous improvement. This includes engagement with the Ministerial Advisory Group and its task and finish groups and working with MHCLG.

The team will continue to maintain links with other stakeholders in the sector such as local government and representative bodies as well as engaging directly with services including through awareness visits.

Outputs:

1. An update on wider sector initiatives, consultations and engagements at sector events to be reported to each FSB.
2. Intelligence data and trends using the underlying Evaluation Methodology to measure the benefits of Fire Standards to be presented to each FSB.

- **Investigate the appetite for new Fire Standards**
  The team will continue to consider if new Standards are required. As part of this, the team will work with colleagues from the People, Culture and Leadership Hub, the NFCC Health and Wellbeing Committee and existing contaminants working groups to confirm whether there is a need for a Health and Wellbeing Fire Standard. The team will also undertake a gap analysis of the existing suite to confirm whether artificial intelligence (AI) is suitably captured within existing Fire Standards.

  Outputs:

  1. Recommendation to the FSB concerning a Health and Wellbeing Fire Standard.
  2. Gap analysis and recommendation concerning inclusion of AI in suite of Fire Standards.
  3. Consideration of subjects for other possible standards.

- **Reviews of Fire Standards**
  The Digital and Cyber, Communications and Engagement and Fire Control Fire Standards are all scheduled for their annual review in 2026/27. Exceptional Reviews may also be required, as necessary.

  Outputs:

  1. Revision and publication of three Fire Standards
  2. Delivery of any exceptional review as mandated by the Board.