



Fire Protection Board – Draft Terms of Reference

Aims

The Board will focus on FRS protection activity in England.

The initial priority for the Protection Board is the creation and agreement of a new assurance regime focused on protection activities of FRSs.

Starting with all residential ACM-clad buildings of 18m and above, with a particular focus on those that have moved from a ‘Stay Put’ strategy to simultaneous evacuation and waking watch due to the level of risk, this standardised regime will support the Board to gain assurance of measures in place in these buildings across England.

Additional priorities will be agreed by the Board to provide a national forum for key Fire and Rescue Service operational related protection and building safety issues to be considered.

Initial responsibilities

1. The Board will design a new assurance regime focused on protection activities of FRS. It will:

- Focus initially on residential ACM-clad buildings of 18m and above, with a particular focus on those which have changed from a ‘Stay Put’ strategy to simultaneous evacuation and waking watch.
- Consider extending this regime to other categories of high risk building including other identified dangerous cladding systems if the need arises.
- Monitor the status of these buildings, including the interim measures in place and the extent to which the FRS has undertaken response planning in the event of a fire. FRSs will not be asked to confirm whether a building is safe as that is the responsibility of the Responsible Person / Building Owner.
- Agree a new outcomes-based assurance framework for FRSs. This standardised regime will require Chief Fire Officers (irrespective of the specific governance arrangements under which they work) to provide assurance to the Board and FRA (or equivalent body) that:

- their FRS is satisfied that the building owner/responsible person has mitigated the risks posed by ACM clad buildings in its area to a sufficient level so that residents can occupy the building (pending remediation), and
 - an effective pre-planned response is in place for these buildings to protect life and property in the event of a fire.
- Review assurance returns annually with quarterly reporting by exception. Timescales may be adjusted if necessary and agreed at Board
 - Support FRAs/FRSs to escalate any critical issues, such as any building which poses an unacceptable fire risk, to central government so that risk mitigation, enforcement and/or remediation work can be prioritised accordingly.
- 2 The Board will also develop a programme of work that is designed to deliver the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government's commitment to increase the pace of inspection activity across high-rise residential buildings that have been inspected or assured no later than 2021. This includes the Board:
- Advising the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Fire on a work programme on how the additional £10m will be spent to deliver his commitment
 - Overseeing the delivery of that programme
 - Defining assurance and inspection for the purposes of this programme
 - Providing ongoing advice to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Fire on the delivery of the work programme and any actions that needs to be taken to ensure successful delivery of the programme.
3. The Board will also focus on other strategic protection activities that it considers to be a priority.

Membership

The Board will consist of:

Board Chair: Roy Wilsher, Chair, NFCC

Mark Hardingham, Chief Fire Officer, Suffolk FRS and NFCC Protection Committee Chair

Dan Daly, Assistant Commissioner, London Fire Brigade

Tony Hunter, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Greater Manchester FRS

Nick Coombe, NFCC lead on the Building Safety Programme and NFCC Protection Vice Chair

Charles Loft, Advisor, Local Government Association

Neil O'Connor, Building Safety Programme Director, MHCLG

Luke Edwards, Fire and Resilience Director, Home Office

Rod McLean, Head of the Fire Safety Unit, Home Office

Meetings

1. All meetings of the Board will be called by the Chair with appropriate notice to the members concerned.
2. The frequency of meetings will be agreed at the first Board meeting. The frequency can be varied with agreement from the Board.
3. The Board will operate with joint governance between the Home Office, MHCLG, the LGA and the NFCC.