

**Building Standards Hub Pilot
Fire Engineering Expert Hub Working Group – fourth meeting.
Thursday 16 November 2023
10:00 – 12:00**

Attendees

Alan McAulay, Building Standards Hub Pilot (Chair)
John Paul Breslin, Stirling Council (LABSS)
Raymond Barlow, Glasgow City Council (LABSS)
Alison Scott, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Kate Swinburne, OFR Consultants (IFE Scottish Branch)
William Connolly, NHS Scotland
Scott Thomson, University of Glasgow
Angus Law, University of Edinburgh
Stephen Garvin, Building Standards Division, Scottish Government
Colin Hird, Building Standards Division, Scottish Government

Apologies

Stuart Russell, NHS Scotland
Peter Drummond, RIAS
Iain McLaren, RICS
Hugh McNamara, ARUP (IFE Scottish Branch)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of this working group.

The focus for this meeting was outlined, this being to discuss the amended purpose paper with further discussions on liability considerations and on the role of the gatekeeper.

In advance of the main agenda items, the Chair provided a general update on the current position with the wider Building Standards Hub pilot programme.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

No comments were raised on the draft note of the third meeting of the group. This note has now been published on the [LABSS website](#).

Matters arising:

Purpose paper (and flowchart) have been updated in line with discussions at the previous meeting.

The role of gatekeeper has been drafted.

Discussions undertaken with CROSS on the 26 October and covered liability considerations and how CROSS engage with subject matter experts.

Limited feedback received from group members on the request for liability implications from everyone's organisational perspective.

3. Discussion and agreement on updated paper - Purpose of the fire engineering expert hub (FEWG/04/001).

The amended purpose paper was reviewed with comments noted.

Specific comments related to the need for clarity around the route of any enquiry to the FEH and the gatekeeper role in terms of validation and triaging of any enquiry for FEH support, the need to be aware of wider work, such as from BSI on what a good fire strategy looks like and the need to review enquiries taken to the FEH to inform wider learning and development opportunities.

Discussions also covered some of the more fundamental principles within fire engineering, such as challenging assumptions, the role of CFD modelling and the general consideration of competence.

The status of FEH recommendations was also discussed.

The FEH acronym was noted, with a further suggestion of 'FireHub' also noted. Post meeting note – the wider issue of the BSH identity and branding is being taken forward in partnership with Fife Council with the FEH identity being taken forward as part of this work.

Chair to consider response to comments and updating of papers as required (**Action AMCA**).

4. Liability considerations

It is not anticipated that any additional liability consideration would be attracted by verifiers, SFRS or the BSD.

From the BSH perspective, the position of the host, Fife Council has been clarified, this being that the Council's policy only covers the liabilities of Fife Council. With regards to construction industry representatives and experts participating, it would depend on whether they were being employed by Fife Council as consultants and therefore acting on behalf of Fife Council on the panel, in which case the Councils PI should provide cover. However when acting as independent experts they would require to have their own PI cover.

Other group members noted a range of views with further consideration required in this respect.

5. Gatekeeper role (FEWG04/002)

Due to time constraints this role will be discussed further at a future meeting.

6. Proposed date and topics for next meeting

Proposed date and topics will be confirmed in due course.

Post meeting note - a full update on the work of this group will be provided to the Delivery Model Development Group meeting on the 25 January, with next steps confirmed following this meeting (**Action AMCA**).

7. Any other business

KS requested a separate meeting to discuss the relationship between the wider BSH and the IFE. (**Action AMCA**).