Summary Report 2015 - Scope

This document offers an introduction to the Fire Sector Federation, reviewing its history, structure and achievements to date, as well as examining how it can help in developing future policy.

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Appendix 1:
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1 What is the Fire Sector Federation?

The Fire Sector Federation (FSF) is the professional voice of the fire sector.

Recognising that the United Kingdom fire sector is wider than the fire and rescue service alone, the Fire Sector Federation brings together representatives from the wide range of stakeholders which make up the multi-billion pound UK fire industry. The Fire Sector Federation works in partnership with all fire sector stakeholders and with the Government with the aim securing a safer society.

The Federation is a not for profit non-government organisation established to act as a forum for the discussion of fire-related issues of interest to its membership and to evolve as a central source of information and guidance on all aspects relating to fire. Originally formed in 2011 as the Fire Sector Partnership, the Fire Sector Federation was established in June 2012 following a merger with the Federation of British Fire Organisations (FOBFO).

The FSF was originally established in response to the Fire Futures review. Launched in July 2010 by the then Fire and Rescue Minister Bob Neill MP, this was a strategic review of fire and rescue provision designed to enable sector partners to shape the future direction of fire and rescue services in England. It was undertaken and led by the sector with contributions from a wide range of representative bodies and organisations.

The Federation was formed to reflect the Government’s move towards decentralisation and in recognition of a need for the sector to take responsibility for its own destiny.

The FSF brings together a broader range of knowledge, experience and skills than existed in previous Government-sponsored forums. It now provides an authoritative voice which takes into account perspectives from across the entire sector. The Federation is unique in that it encompasses the whole of the sector.

2 Who does the Fire Sector Federation represent?

Since its establishment, the FSF has offered support to Government, providing a single voice on the views of the wider fire sector and providing authoritative advice and input on policy matters, with over 60 organisations now members.

The FSF brings together trade bodies, fire and rescue services, regulatory and inspection bodies, fire safety organisations, research and training bodies and end-user organisations. FSF members work in partnership to develop policy by providing a broad spectrum of opinion from the fire sector, formulating views and advice on behalf of the unified sector.

Individual members include trade bodies such as the Fire Industry Association, the Association for Specialist Fire Protection and the British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association; enforcement and firefighter representatives including the Chief Fire Officers’ Association, the three firefighter unions, the Association of Building Engineers and the Building Control Alliance; fire safety organisations such as the Fire Protection Association, the Institute of Fire Safety Managers and the Institution of Fire Engineers; and end-user organisations including the National Social Housing Fire Strategy Group, Royal Mail and the National Trust.

3 How is the Fire Sector Federation structured?

All activities of the FSF are undertaken on a voluntary basis. Matters of constitution and process for the conduct of the FSF are determined through an Annual General Meeting of Ordinary Members, which is open to all members.

The Annual General Meeting elects four FSF Officers to manage day-to-day Federation business.

Current officers are:

- **Chairman:** Brian Robinson CBE O St J, QFSM, FI.FireE
- **Deputy Chairman:** Paul Fuller QFSM, MSc, BSc
- **Vice Chairman:** Dennis Davis CBE, QFSM, OSij, CEng, FI.FireE(Life), MPhil, CMI
- **Treasurer:** Ronnie King OBE, O St J, QFSM, F I.FireE

Administration of the FSF is provided by an Executive Group formed from the FSF Officers and from those members appointed to advise the Federation. This Group includes all of the Chairs of FSF workstreams.

The main work of the FSF is undertaken by a number of focused workstreams which examine in detail issues considered to be of specific importance to the fire sector. These workstreams bring together members with a particular interest or expertise to discuss and develop policy and actions and to produce industry guidance for wider dissemination, as necessary.

Current workstreams include:

- **All Party Parliamentary Fire Safety & Rescue Group**
  - Workstream Chair: Ronnie King OBE, O St J, QFSM, FI.FireE
  - Note: This is an All Party Parliamentary Group consisting of 25 peers and MPs, serviced by a small number of FSF officers.

- **Built Environment Issues & Affairs**
  - Workstream Chair: Celestine Cheong

- **Competency & Accreditation**
  - Workstream Chair: Dennis Davis CBE, QFSM

- **Enforcement**
  - Workstream Chair: Terry O’Neill

- **Fire Investigation**
  - Workstream Chair: Martin Shipp

- **International Affairs**
  - Workstream Chair: Dennis Davis CBE, QFSM

- **Major Incidents**
  - Workstream Chair: Mike Wood

- **Marketing**
  - Workstream Chair: Wilf Butcher

- **National Policy**
  - Workstream Chair: Jonathan O’Neill

- **Procurement of Goods and Services**
  - Workstream Chair: Dave Russell

- **Research and Statistics**
  - Workstream Chair: Dennis Davis CBE, QFSM

- **Structural Timber**
  - Workstream Chair: Neil Gibbins

- **Technical Guidance**
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4 What has the Fire Sector Federation achieved?

Since its formal establishment in 2012, the FSF has made a significant contribution to shaping UK fire policy and gathering opinion, providing input on a range of issues.

4.1 Project work

Automatic False Alarms project

A major focus of the Technology Workstream has been the development of the Automatic False Alarms project, first proposed in April 2013. With some 280-300k false alarms per year received by fire & rescue services, this project aims to investigate the cause and examine how technology could provide a solution.

The Workstream developed a three-stage approach to the project:

- Identify the problem – gathered improved data from the scene of the cause of false alarms
- Identify and modernise specific installations – bringing together insurers, British Approvals for Fire Equipment, the Fire Protection Association, the Chief Fire Officers Association and the Fire Industry Association the project aimed to identify 2-3 troublesome installations as case studies. These were updated with new systems and the results monitored over a period of time
- Analysis of the results – the project aimed to confirm that the improvements made actually improved the situation, then link this to enforcers building control, CFOA and end users/industry

Work is ongoing with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, where several problem installations have been monitored and improved.

Electronic Alarm Transfer proposal

The Technology Workstream is also developing an Electronic Alarm Transfer proposal, aimed at improving response to fire alarms and reducing error. This will provide a Unique Reference Number (URN) for each installation, mirroring the system already in place with the police for security systems.

The proposal recommends that to obtain a URN certain criteria need to be met; the system needs to be designed installed and maintained to standards (European and British) and the work and monitoring carried out by third party approved companies. It proposes a one-off URN registration fee, followed by a small annual charge to pay for set up and administration of the Electronic Alarm Transfer System (EATS).

Approved Document B Review

The Built Environment Issues and Affairs (BEI&A) workstream is investigating how fire’s impact should be considered in light of the imminent review of the Building Regulations and Approved Document B.

The Workstream undertook Federation-wide research through means of an internal survey, which closed in March 2015. It will now prioritise as well as further investigate pressing topics requiring immediate attention.

Competence & Accreditation

The Competence & Accreditation Workstream aims to help improve building fire safety management by addressing issues of competency for those who undertake, knowingly or not, the role of Fire Safety Manager (FSM) of a building. Current action centres on mapping existing qualification and learning systems with the objective of finding the gaps and then sourcing possible solutions.

Research & Statistics

The FSF has a continuing relationship with the UK Fire and Rescue Statistics User Group. One concern is the matter of access to the F&RS electronic information system that provides the core historical data that is used extensively by F&RS and others to plan, predict and evaluate performance and options. Achieving adequate access to this data has been an issue for many years and currently the Federation is attempting to find a solution that might enable this core data to be matched with other sources, such as financial losses and injury impacts, to provide a richer and more meaningful picture for the benefit of the wider fire sector.

Structural Timber

The Structural Timber Workstream aims to review all relevant data, information and research currently available to help formulate an improvement strategy to reduce the impact of fires through prevention and protective measures, and in particular help create an environment to ensure that the risk from fire involving timber-framed buildings, both during construction and occupation, is no greater than that of other construction methods.

Workforce Development

The Workforce Development workstream is to undertake a review of the Competence Standards curriculum involving relevant external bodies such as the Sector Skills Council, Skills for Justice and other industry skills bodies aligned particularly to the construction and electro-technical sectors.

Devolved Administrations

The Fire Sector Federation works closely with devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and with organisations such as the Scottish Business Engagement Forum (BEF), ensuring that fire and fire sector issues are considered in a similar way throughout the UK and that lessons learned will benefit the whole of the UK.
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4.2 Guidance documents

The Technical Guidance and Enforcement Workstreams of the FSF have produced or been consulted in the development of several guidance documents:

Fire Detection and Alarm Systems in Sheltered Housing

The Technical Guidance Workstream is working to develop a document to clarify the expectations for fire detection and alarm systems in sheltered housing. Bringing together the Fire Industry Association (FIA) and the National Sheltered Housing Fire Safety Group (NSHFSG) and other industry stakeholders, the purpose is not to create new standards, but to explain existing standards and technology to assist those who specify, install, manage and inspect such systems.

Fire Safety and Sustainability in Building Design

In July 2014, the FSF released its first Technical Guidance document entitled, Fire Safety and Sustainability in Building Design. The document aims to encourage all those involved in the specification, planning, design and construction of fire safety in new buildings to think more widely than health and safety alone. Its intention is to help people to consider how to make a building sustainable in the face of fire and promote a low environmental impact.

Repealed Local Act – Guidance

In November 2014, the FSF Enforcement Workstream released Repealed Local Act – Guidance, which provides advice to those who may be considering the removal of fire safety measures that were incorporated into existing buildings under the auspices of the now repealed Local Acts.

Building Control & Fire Safety Procedural Guidance

The Technical Guidance and Enforcement Workstreams have assisted in the revision of the Building Control & Fire Safety Procedural Guidance. The new edition of the Procedural Guidance to the Fire Safety Building Regulations has now been completed and is due to be published by DCLG.

In 2015, the Technical Guidance Workstream will begin work on a document that will expand on and explain the guidance in terms that are more appropriate to individual users. The intention is to increase awareness of the procedural guidance and to encourage greater uptake of the best practice contained within it. This guidance will include a chapter covering compliance with Regulation 38, providing tools to assist with compliance.

Glass & Glazing Federation Standard

The FSF assisted in the consultation process for the Glass and Glazing Federation Standard for the Specification, Supply and Installation of Fire-Resistant Barriers Containing Glass for Resistance Against the Passage of Fire and Products of Combustion.

4.3 Consultations

The FSF has developed responses to a number of Government and industry consultations including:

Department for Business Innovation & Skills consultation on the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988

Responding to the Department for Business Innovation & Skills consultation on the Furniture And Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988, the FSF, on behalf of the fire sector has given clear guidance in relation to the proposal from BIS to make amendments to Schedule 5 – the Match Test – part 1 and Schedule 4 – the Cigarette Test.

The FSF has expressed reservations on the process and lack of independent technical review in arriving at the proposals and new test methodology. It has agreed to put together a Technical Panel to peer review the new methodology; suggest changes if they are believed necessary and to consider some comparative tests and test data.

- The FSF does not support any change to testing on a piecemeal basis but only after a full review has been carried out and properly consulted with industry experts in order that the effects are fully understood.
- A major issue for the UK is that we are seeing worryingly high levels of non-compliance; this is an enforcement, rather than a regulatory issue, for example, there is evidence suggesting that some retailers may be suspicious that products do not comply with the regulations.

Lakanal House inquest (2013)

The inquest into the Lakanal House fire in the London Borough of Southwark on 3 July 2009 began on 14 January and ended on March 28th 2013. The FSF issued a statement following the inquest and received a Rule 43 letter from Coroner, Her Honour Frances Kirkham CBE regarding investigating competency of Fire Risk Assessors and Assessments.

- The FSF established a Workstream to consider the wider issues arising from Lakanal House and how this should feed into improvements in Approved Document B to the Building Regulations
- The FSF established a Workstream to examine Competency & Accreditation of Fire Risk Assessors. This encompassed the Fire Risk Assessment Competency Council and built on the existing work of this Group, further developing the Competency Criteria
- The FSF wrote to the Coroner with reference to Fire risk assessment in May 2013 and provided an update of its ongoing actions in December 2013:
  - The FSF extended the scope of its work to consider training, personal certification and education on fire safety, as well as fire risk assessment
  - The FSF highlighted similarities between Lakanal and other recent and historical fires
- Work remains ongoing across various FSF Workstreams to investigate and implement change, including:
  - Improving fire safety management procedures
  - Identifying common factors which contributed to major fire incidents in the past
  - Identifying key construction process challenges
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  - Investigating necessary changes to the guidance in Approved Document B
4.4 Influence

All Party Parliamentary Fire & Rescue Group (APPFSRG)
The FSF has developed strong links with the APPFSRG and has tried to increase MP/Peer involvement in attendance at meetings, seminars and participation in debates and EDMs. The Group has held 17 meetings in the past year of various types (four of these were with Ministers), together with Launch events, a Parliamentary Seminar, EDM’s Backbench Business debates and PQs. They have received a number of organisations at their meetings and supported themes and policies, where they are in the best interests of public safety. Government acknowledgment of the APPFSRG/FSF link as a source of information/advice is greatly welcomed by the sector.

International affairs
Work being undertaken by the Federation includes working with European colleagues to promote safer transportation by developing new standards that could assist firefighters understanding of vehicle risks as components and technology changes are introduced by the automotive industry to improve in vehicle safety and efficiency into transport. Working conditions have also been subject to consultation as Europe seeks to harmonise working rules across the Union. The Federation, working with partners, has been active in trying to ensure that UK F&RS are not disadvantaged by any changes proposed. The Federation, has responded to EC Working Time Directive by any changes proposed. The Federation has responded to EC Working Time Directive to ensure it can continue to support and develop the sector and provide essential opinion and advice to Government.

Marketing
The FSF through its Marketing Workstream, has developed a corporate brand, logo, identity and style guide and launched an outward facing website which aims to offer fire safety information to the wider sector and general public. Work is under way to develop the site into an information portal.

Fire Summit
The FSF supports the annual Fire Sector Summit. Attracting senior figures from across the sector, the Summit offers a unique blend of networking, conference, discussion and debate on the opportunities and challenges facing the industry. The FSF contributes to the development of the conference programme and encourages all members to attend.

Appendix 1 - Fire Sector Federation member organisations

Angloloc Ltd
Angus Fire
Ash Fire Management
Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP)
Ballyclare Ltd
BB7 Fire Ltd
Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
BM TRADA
BRE
Blisford Uniforms
British Approvals for Fire Equipment (BAFE)
British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association (BAFSA)
British Fire Consortium (BFC)
British Precast
British Woodworking Federation (BWF)
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
Building Control Alliance (BCA)
Business Sprinkler Alliance (BSA)
Capita (Fire Service College)
Cassidian
CFOA Services Ltd
Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA)
Coopers Fire Ltd
European Fire Sprinkler Network (EFSN)
Fire and Industrial PPE
Fire Brigades Union (FBU)
Fire Industry Association (FIA including FIRESA)
Fire Officers Association (FOA)
Fire Protection Association
Fire Safe Europe
FM Approvals

FM Global Insurance Company
Glass & Glazing Federation (GGF)
Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI)
Gypsum Products Development Association (GPDA)
Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service
IFC Group (International Fire Consultants Ltd)
Independent Fire Engineering and Distributors Association (IFEDA)
Institute of Fire Prevention Officers (IFPO)
Institute of Fire Safety Managers (IFSM)
Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE)
Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)
Joint Universities Fire & Rescue Research Programme
Local Authority Building Control (LABC)
National Fire Sprinkler Network (NFSN)
National Security Inspectorate (NSI)
National Social Housing Fire Strategy Group (NSHFSG) (Midland Heart)
National Trust
Networking Women in the Fire Service
Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
Oil Technics Ltd
Passive Fire Protection Federation (PFFP)
Pavilion Publishing
Pilkington UK Ltd (NSG Group)
Pramat UK Ltd
Royal Mail
Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Structural Timber Association (STA)
UL International (UK) Ltd
W L Gore
Warrington Certification Limited/Exova
Warringtonfire

For further information, visit www.firesectorfederation.co.uk

5 How can the Fire Sector Federation help in developing future policy?
Over three years the Federation has demonstrated its ability to bring together a wide cross-section of the fire sector and provide a unified voice. The FSF has the structures and governance in place to ensure it can continue to support and develop the sector and provide essential opinion and advice to Government.

Drawing from the experience and expertise of its members, who work with or within the built, natural, fire & rescue and national resilience environments, the FSF has proved it can make a valuable contribution to ensuring the UK’s national preparedness, resilience, response, mitigation and recovery from fire.

Development of the Fire Sector Summit
The FSF supports the annual Fire Sector Summit. Attracting senior figures from across the sector, the Summit offers a unique blend of networking, conference, discussion and debate on the opportunities and challenges facing the industry. The FSF contributes to the development of the conference programme and encourages all members to attend.

National Framework / Operational Guidance
The FSF took part in the 2011 consultation on developing a possible replacement for the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework.

Sir Ken Knight review
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Procurement
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4.4 Influence

All Party Parliamentary Fire & Rescue Group (APPFSRG)
The FSF has developed strong links with the APPFSRG and has tried to increase MP/Peer involvement in attendance at meetings, seminars and participation in debates and EDMs. The Group has held 17 meetings in the past year of various types (four of these were with Ministers), together with Launch events, a Parliamentary Seminar, EDM’s Backbench Business debates and PQs. They have received a number of organisations at their meetings and supported themes and policies, where they are in the best interests of public safety. Government acknowledgment of the APPFSRG/FSF link as a source of information/advice is greatly welcomed by the sector.

International affairs
Work being undertaken by the Federation includes working with European colleagues to promote safer transportation by developing new standards that could assist firefighters understanding of vehicle risks as components and technology changes are introduced by the automotive industry to improve in vehicle safety and efficiency into transport. Working conditions have also been subject to consultation as Europe seeks to harmonise working rules across the Union. The Federation, working with partners, has been active in trying to ensure that UK F&RS are not disadvantaged by any changes proposed. The Federation has responded to EC Working Time Directive consultations and to Foreign & Commonwealth Office consultations on the UK relationship to the EU.

Marketing
The FSF through its Marketing Workstream, has developed a corporate brand, logo, identity and style guide and launched an outward facing website which aims to offer fire safety information to the wider sector and general public. Work is under way to develop the site into an information portal.

Fire Summit
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5 How can the Fire Sector Federation help in developing future policy?
Over three years the Federation has demonstrated its ability to bring together a wide cross-section of the fire sector and provide a unified voice. The FSF has the structures and governance in place to ensure it can continue to support and develop the sector and provide essential opinion and advice to Government.

Drawing from the experience and expertise of its members, who work with or within the built, natural, fire & rescue and national resilience environments, the FSF has proved it can make a valuable contribution to ensuring the UK’s national preparedness, resilience, response, mitigation and recovery from fire.

For further information, visit www.firesectorfederation.co.uk

Appendix 1 - Fire Sector Federation member organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angloco Ltd</td>
<td>FM Global Insurance Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angus Fire</td>
<td>Glass &amp; Glazing Federation (GGF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ash Fire Management</td>
<td>Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP)</td>
<td>Gypsum Products Development Association (GPDA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballyclare Ltd</td>
<td>Hampshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>BB7 Fire Ltd</td>
<td>IFC Group (International Fire Consultants Ltd)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bedfordshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service</td>
<td>Independent Fire Engineering and Distributors Association (IFEDA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BM TRADA</td>
<td>Institute of Fire Prevention Officers (IFPO)</td>
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<td>BRE</td>
<td>Institute of Fire Safety Managers (IFSM)</td>
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<td>Britsol Uniforms</td>
<td>Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Approvals for Fire Equipment (BAFE)</td>
<td>Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association (BAFAR)</td>
<td>Joint Universities Fire &amp; Rescue Research Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Fire Consortium (BFC)</td>
<td>Local Authority Building Control (LABC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Precast</td>
<td>National Fire Sprinkler Network (NFSN)</td>
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<td>British Woodworking Federation (BWF)</td>
<td>National Security Inspectorate (NSI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buckinghamshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service</td>
<td>National Social Housing Fire Strategy Group (NSHFSG) (Midland Heart)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Control Alliance (BCA)</td>
<td>National Trust</td>
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<td>Business Sprinkler Alliance (BSA)</td>
<td>Networking Women in the Fire Service</td>
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<td>Capita (Fire Service College)</td>
<td>Nottinghamshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service</td>
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<td>Cassidian</td>
<td>Oil Technologies Ltd</td>
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<td>CFOA Services Ltd</td>
<td>Passive Fire Protection Federation (PPFF)</td>
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<td>Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)</td>
<td>Pavilion Publishing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA)</td>
<td>Pilkington UK Ltd (NSG Group)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coopers Fire Ltd</td>
<td>Promat UK Ltd</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Fire Sprinkler Network (EFSN)</td>
<td>Royal Mail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire and Industrial PPE</td>
<td>Staffordshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Brigades Union (FBU)</td>
<td>Structural Timber Association (STA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Industry Association (FIA including FIRESA)</td>
<td>UL International (UK) Ltd</td>
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<td>Fire Officers Association (FOA)</td>
<td>W L Gore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Protection Association</td>
<td>Warrington Certification Limited/Exova</td>
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<td>Fire Safe Europe</td>
<td>Warringtonfire</td>
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