

**Item 3**

**Fire Industry Association**

**Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction.

**Summary**

The Fire Industry Association is a not-for-profit trade association with the aim of promoting the professional status of the UK fire safety industry.

Graham Ellicott, the Association's Chief Executive, will attend to detail the Association's activities and current views on Fire Futures. Graham will also give a presentation covering the problem of false alarms from Fire Detection and Alarm Systems.

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to receive the presentation from the Fire Industry Association and comment upon any areas of interest.

**Action**

Officers to action as appropriate.

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## **Fire Industry Association**

### **Background**

1. Formed in April 2007 following a merger between the Fire Extinguishing Trade Association and the British Fire Protection Systems Association, the Fire Industry Association (FIA) is a not-for-profit trade association with the aim of promoting the professional status of the UK fire safety industry.
2. The Association lists its core values as being to:
  - 2.1 Demonstrate and promote the highest ethical standards
  - 2.2 Always strive for the highest affective standards of fire safety
  - 2.3 Be recognised as the experts in providing solutions to fire protection problems
  - 2.4 Provide an open, transparent and equal forum for members regardless of size
  - 2.5 Demonstrate speed and an ability to get things done.
3. The Association's Chief Executive, Graham Ellicott, will be attending the meeting to inform Commission Members of the Association's current activities, as well as to share the Association's current views on the Government's Fire Futures project, and to present on the problem of false alarms from Fire Detection and Alarm Systems.

### **Fire Futures**

4. One significant strand of the Fire Futures project proposals would see Fire and Rescue Services able to raise further revenue through charging and trading.
5. The FIA has expressed concern on both of these, and the presentation on this item will expand on these concerns. Of note is the Association's view that Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) should be able to trade provided the playing field is level, and that the market will be unfairly distorted if, for example, FRS trading companies are able to use FRS branding and the trade members are not allowed the same branding.
6. The Association also contends that increased charging from Fire and Rescue Services brings risks that must be managed. For example, were FRSs to charge for false alarms, though this could reduce calls, it might encourage people to switch off fire alarms, leading to increased fire risk. Again, the presentation on this item will expand on this.

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**Conclusion and next steps**

7. The Fire Futures project is covered separately on this agenda. Members are asked to comment on any points arising from the report and from the presentation from the Fire Industry Association.

**Financial Implications**

8. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.