

# Arson Prevention Forum

## DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday 29 May commencing at 10.30am

London Fire Brigade Headquarters, 169 Union Street, London SE1 0LL

<b>Present:</b>	Lee Howell Neil Galling DS Chris Baker Dr Chris Foster Andy Stapleton Peter Cordingley Phil Lancaster Dr Peter Mansi Rob Dakin Larry Stokes Mark Shepherd Phil Martin	Chair Fire Protection Association Leicestershire Police Dr J H Burgoyne & Partners LLP DCLG Crime and Policing Group Cleveland Fire Brigade UK Association of Fire Investigation AXA Commercial Lines & Personal Intermediary Zurich Insurance ABI DSFRS
<b>In attendance:</b>	Ciara Holland Jo Lomas	BRE CFOA HQ
<b>Apologies:</b>	Adair Lewis Brian Smith David Crowder Cllr Roger Price DCC Edens James Webb Nick Young Sally Averill Simon Morris	Fire Protection Association Trading Standards BRE Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority Leicestershire Police DCLG DAC Beachcroft LLP CPS Sainsbury's
<b><u>Apologies (Item 1)</u></b>		
1	Apologies were received as set out above.	
<b><u>Minutes and actions arising from the last meeting meeting held (Item 2)</u></b>		
2	The group accepted the draft minutes as an accurate record of the proceedings.	
3	P Mansi advised that the IAAI UK has rebranded and are now known as the UK Association of Fire Investigators.	
4	Actions update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>12/01 L Stokes to discuss ABI representation at the APF with Nick Starling – complete.</li><li>12/02 Chair to write to Jonathan O'Neill to secure attendance from the FPA at future meetings – complete.</li><li>12/03 Chair to write to Dr J Glockling for clarity around the RISCAuthority data sharing tool and the information FRSSs have been asked to provide – covered under agenda item 4.</li><li>12/04 D Smithson to liaise with S Edens to share information and work on mental health – complete.</li><li>12/05 Chair to raise awareness of the work linking fire setting and mental</li></ul>	

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	<p><b>health with national mental health charities</b> - complete; the Chair has written to a range of mental health charities with a number of positive responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>12/06 Chair and S Hamm to develop links between the APF and CFA FISSG</b> - S Hamm and the Chair have agreed representation on each group.</li> <li>• <b>12/07 Secretariat to add and item for S Averill to present on 'Disclosure and Expert Witnesses' at the next meeting</b> - Chair to discuss with Sally for future agenda.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Context (Item 3)</u></b>	
5	The Chair asked for the group's perceptions on the wider economic outlook/socio impact and emerging trends.
6	<p>L Stokes advised that there had been a bad run of school fires in last 3 months. Schools are moving into academies and the style of school buildings is changing, which is good for the sprinkler lobby; an effect on arson rates is anticipated in 2018/19.</p> <p>L Stokes also raised the issue of unoccupied/void properties and the theft of raw materials causing damage. The Chair suggested guidance notes be signposted on the website.</p> <p><b>Action 13/01 - APF to submit formal response to BB100 consultation.</b></p>
7	P Lancaster advised that Cleveland FRS had seen a significant reduction (40-50%) in fires, underpinned by the bad weather. The impact of environmental conditions should be considered, particularly with climate change in mind.
8	<p>R Dakin advised that insurers now take a stronger line in the protection of vacant buildings; from a construction point of view this has led to at least a 25% reduction in the number of timber frame buildings.</p> <p>R Dakin raised the issue of fuel poverty linked to the threat of high rise insulation cladding. The Chair asked whether there was any data which would support insurers in mitigating this risk/strengthening their position. There was a discussion around trying to develop influence at the early stage of decision making i.e. preferred method of cladding, raising awareness of fire safety as a sustainability consideration.</p> <p><b>Action 13/02 - Concerns around high rise insulation cladding to be raised with Mark Jones to link with British/European standards.</b></p>
9	M Shepherd advised that the FPA are working on warehouses/sprinklers which will give useful evidence for building regulations consultation. It was agreed that the insurance industry demonstrating the economic impact would be more persuasive than fire agenda.
10	C Baker advised that there had been reductions around personal/violent crime, acquisitive crime and antisocial behaviour/damage; this is as yet unexplained but may be linked to the way crime is recorded. The economy has kept people indoors and the shift towards localism, neighbourhood policing, partnership working around vulnerability and safeguarding has had an impact.
11	<p>P Lancaster raised concerns around austerity, the reduction in street wardens and the impact of welfare reform. The Chair advised that there had been a spike in deliberate fire deaths (including suicide) and P Lancaster agreed that Cleveland FRS had recorded the same.</p> <p><b>Action 13/03 – P Lancaster to survey FRS on these anecdotes.</b></p>

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<u>Data/Trends (Item 4)</u>	
12	The group discussed how the RISC Authority data sharing tool can support the mapping of data sets and identifying trends. Awaiting information from A Lewis and J Glockling.
13	<p>M Shepherd and R Dakin advised that a large loss database doesn't cover only insured loss, rather the overall economic cost of fire. Large loss has to be £100k plus, which eliminates many domestic.</p> <p>M Shepherd advised that fire represents 40% of total property losses per year; fire numbers are decreasing but the cost is increasing which represents an economic issue. FPA figures state that deliberate fires constitute between a quarter to a half of large losses.</p>
14	<p>P Cordingley agreed that economic impact i.e. the cost of dealing with deliberate fires is a powerful way to engage interest.</p> <p>Combined response e.g. joint fire/police stations is being reviewed.</p> <p>P Cordingley advised the group of Home Office work taking place to draw closer links between crime statistics and trends in deliberate fire. Police figures underestimate the problem of deliberate fires in crime and antisocial behaviour hotspots as they are pursued as criminal damage or acts of violence against person rather than arson.</p> <p>There is also research around the behaviour of fire-starters and treatment response. The Chair raised the issue of Social Services not sharing data with the appropriate agencies. The group discussed an FRS referral process working together with agencies e.g. probation, prison. Opportunities for capturing data on prison fires and education were discussed; many FRS provide young firesetter intervention which provides invaluable data.</p> <p>There are gaps in the way arsonists are identified, prosecuted and rehabilitated with considerations around whether there is sufficient data/resource/interest.</p>
15	<p>P Mansi raised the issue of language barriers as a problem between agencies in the understanding of responses in specific circumstances.</p> <p>The group discussed raising suggested language changes when the incident recording system is changed.</p> <p><b>Action 13/04 - Better joining up of activity between organisations (including language) to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.</b></p>
16	P Martin circulated a document showing Deliberate Primary Fire statistics from DCLG. Deliberate fires fatalities are an issue which seems to have plateaued.
17	<p>The Chair proposed a Home Office/APF/FPA task/finish subgroup to map data sets using UK Fire statistics and IRS knowledge of the policing model, capturing RISC Authority data set and ABI data. The Chair extended an open invitation to anyone around the table/interested parties.</p> <p><b>Action 13/05 - Chair to contact S Hamm re: CFOA work currently in hand.</b></p> <p><b>Action 13/06 - Subgroup to report back at the next meeting (to be added to the agenda).</b></p>

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<b><u>Joint working (Item 5)</u></b>	
18	<b>Action 13/07 – Chair to arrange formal sharing of minutes. Chris and Peter to ensure a conduit between FI and APF.</b>
<b><u>Prosecution (Item 6)</u></b>	
19	<b>Action 13/08 - Chair to write to S Averill re: disclosure and expert witness agenda item.</b>
<b><u>Communication (Item 7)</u></b>	
20	<p>The Chair updated the group on the website – the most obvious information has been refreshed and useful local case studies have been included. The website should feature good case studies, something around sprinklers to support the lobby, a members-only section for end to end process work and signpost good initiatives, notable practice and partnerships. There is also opportunity for a newsfeed fed by Twitter which would give currency. P Martin has someone who will take up management of the website.</p> <p>P Martin asked members for feedback on their requirements of the site and requested any useful contributions (via either <a href="mailto:stoparsonuk@dsfire.gov.uk">stoparsonuk@dsfire.gov.uk</a>, the Chair or J Lomas).</p> <p><b>Action 13/09 - P Martin to give a live demonstration at the next meeting.</b></p>
21	<p>The group discussed approaches for statements linked to high profile cases i.e. whether there is a gap in information and an opportunity to release a sufficiently general position which respective parties are comfortable with e.g. a direction to the website for a portfolio of stock prevention advice.</p> <p><b>Action 13/10 – C Baker to speak to Simon (ASB lead) and ACPO press office.</b></p>
<b><u>AOB (Item 9)</u></b>	
22	<p>C Holland advised that the BRE contract with DCLG for the FI project has been renewed and circulated a copy of the letter which was sent to all Chiefs. The project doesn't have a focus on arson but does pull out trends from all fires.</p> <p><b>Action 13/11 – C Holland to forward the document electronically to J Lomas for circulation with the minutes.</b></p>
23	C Baker advised that current work was around assessing the scale of arson with partners, mapping, and identifying and sharing best practice. A multi-agency conference was proposed.
24	<p>C Foster advised that mapping was currently very procedural; there is an opportunity to move forward working together with P Mansi, N Young and S Averill.</p> <p><b>Action 13/12 – C Foster to report back at the next meeting (to be added to the agenda).</b></p>
25	P Mansi advised that a 3-day training conference was being held next week with 85 delegates expected.
26	P Lancaster advised that the draft CFOA position statement on deliberate fires should be available for the next meeting. The arson and deliberate fire contact list has also been refreshed.

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<u>Date of next meeting (Item 10)</u>	
27	TBC