

By e-mail

23 April 2021

Dear FRA Chair,

I am writing to let you know that the LGA has decided to remove the Fire Safety in Purpose Built Blocks of Flats Guide from its website and you may wish to consider taking similar action if you host a copy on your website.

The Fire Safety in Purpose Built Blocks of Flats Guide was produced at the request of the Government in 2011 and written by external fire safety experts. It was a summary of the law and guidance at the time.

In 2019 the LGA raised the need for an updated version of this Guide with the Government, at whose request we continued to host the existing version. We did so with a number of caveats to explain that it was no longer comprehensive, given the changes that had been made and were planned.

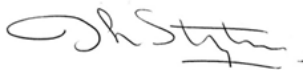
The Government response to the fire safety consultation this year, combined with the withdrawal of PAS 79, indicated a change in policy from the advice in the Guide. The LGA does not consider it appropriate to continue to host advice for its members that could lead them to pursue a course which might prove to be at odds with the law within a year or two and which could potentially be subject to legal challenge now.

We do not possess the inhouse fire-safety expertise necessary to amend the Guide.

The Government is currently producing a new version which we anticipate will be available later this year.

We will continue to discuss with Government and the NFCC how best to provide advice to responsible persons about their duties under the FSO and will inform you of any development. In the meantime, our advice is that it be removed from FRA websites.

With all good wishes,



Cllr Ian Stephens – Chair of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee