

Scottish Building Standards Hub
Fire Hub – Collaborative Forum Meeting 1
Wednesday 3 September 2025
10.00 – 12:00

Attendees:

Alan McAulay – Scottish Building Standards Hub, Technical Director (Chair)
Emma Emslie – Scottish Building Standards Hub, Expert Technical Support Surveyor (Fire)
Stephen Garvin - Head of Building Standards, Scottish Government
Benny Rooney - Building Standards Division, Scottish Government
Scott Young - Building Standards Division, Scottish Government
John Paul Breslin – Building Standards Team Leader, Stirling Council (LABSS)
Raymond Barlow - Head of Building Standards & Public Safety, Glasgow City Council (LABSS)
Alison Scott - Watch Commander, Fire Engineer/Fire Safety Enforcement Officer, SFRS
William Connolly - Principal National Fire Safety Advisor, NHS Scotland
Stuart Russell - Head of Architecture, Fire Safety and Structural Engineering, NHS Scotland
Scott Thomson - Building Standards Submissions Manager, University of Glasgow
Angus Law - Senior Lecturer in Fire Safety Engineering, University of Edinburgh
Hugh McNamara - Associate Director, ARUP (IFE Scottish Branch)
Russell Watson - Scottish Building Standards Hub, Learning and Development Manager

Apologies

Susan Paterson – Scottish Building Standards Hub - Administration and Technical Support Officer
Peter Drummond – Director PDA (RIAS)
Iain McLaren - Lead Director Scotland – Watts (RICS)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to this first meeting of the Fire Hub Collaborative Forum and hoped that everyone would find the meeting interesting and of value.

The Chair also noted that future meetings will include contributions from a range of attendees where this would support the purpose and the aims of the group.

2. Recap on conclusions from the Fire Engineering Expert Hub Working Group Meeting

The Chair provided a summary of the outcomes of the Fire Engineering Expert Hub Working Group, the forerunner to this forum. This was twofold.

Firstly, Fire Hub support to verifiers through an operational partnership where a verifier requires support on a particular building warrant application that includes elements of complex fire engineering, which are beyond the competency of the staff within the SBSH, in which case the SBSH will engage with relevant organisations to source the necessary support required by the verifier.

It was noted at the last working group meeting that this would be taken forward with a period of review, reflection, and adjustment to be undertaken once the approach is embedded within the system and that the SBSH would cover any reasonable costs in this respect.

The Chair confirmed this outcome has been widely communicated to verifiers with no approaches for support to date.

The second outcome was agreement for the SBSH to set up, coordinate and administrate a Fire Hub Collaborative Forum, hence the convening of this meeting.

3. SBSH Learning and development update

Russell Watson, the SBSH Learning and Development Manager, delivered a presentation outlining the work of the SBSH around learning and development with a focus on activities related to fire safety and fire engineering.

The presentation was welcomed by attendees and was followed by a general discussion on the challenges of providing appropriate levels and delivery methods of relevant training for all involved in the construction sector.

It is anticipated that this area will be a standing item on the agenda for future forum meetings and will allow for other members of the group to outline activity in this area from their perspective.

4. SBSH Peer Review Activity

Emma Emslie, the SBSH Expert Technical Surveyor in Fire, delivered a presentation on fire related peer review work currently being undertaken by the SBSH to support Local Authority verifiers.

5. SBSH Direct support – examples

The Chair then provided a presentation outlining examples of fire related general enquiries that have been submitted recently to the SBSH.

6. Collaborative Forum operational principles

A draft Terms of Reference (TOR) document was circulated prior to the meeting and there followed a general discussion on this document.

Feedback on the draft TOR included specifically referencing emerging challenges, areas of risk, the status of outcomes and clarification on who is being supported.

7. Next steps

The chair requested any other feedback on the TOR after the meeting and will prepare an updated draft TOR for the next meeting of the forum. **(Action – REPS/SBSH)**

The Chair also requested that attendees confirm that they are content to be involved with this forum going forward. **(Action – Reps)**

Feedback is also welcome on any element of the presentations and other areas of discussion undertaken during the meeting. **(Action – Reps)**

8. AOB and date of next meeting

There was general agreement for a further forum meeting, online, before the end of the year. Arrangements in this respect will be progressed by the SBSH. **(Action – SBSH)**.

End.