



NFCC PPE/Clothing Committee Meeting 12/09/2022 Attendance log and Minutes

Name	Initial	Representing	Date 06/06/22	Date 12/09/22	Date 07/02/23
Steve Topham	ST	Chair & National Sponsor of Collaborative PPE	P	P	P
Brett Egan-Briers	BEB	Vice Chair & National Technical Lead for PPE/Clothing	P	P	P
	BEB	Regional Representative South East	P	P	P
Jonathan Reid	JR	Regional Representative London	P	P	P
Jayne Moore	JM	Regional Representative Eastern	P	P	P
Robin Clow	RC	Regional Representative North East	P	P	
Simon Anderson	SA	Regional Representative North West	A	P	
Andy James	AJ	Regional Representative North West (Replacing Simon Anderson from January 2023)	N/A	N/A	P
Gareth Davies	GD	Regional Representative Wales			
Roddy McKinnon	RMc	Regional Representative Scotland		P	Sub
Dave Lofthouse	DL	Regional Representative Yorkshire and Humberside	A	P	A
Liz Davies	LD	Regional Representative West Midlands	Sub - LD	Sub - LD	Sub -LD
Julia Skinner	JS	Regional Representative East Midlands	N/A	P	P
Scott Wilson	SW	Regional Representative South West	P	P	Sub
Kirk Kelleher	KK	National Operational Guidance (NOG)	P	P	P
Clive Robinson	CR	Fire Officers Association (FOA)	P		P
Jagtar Singh	JS	AFSA National Advisor		P	P
Jan Morris	JM	Women in the Fire Service (WFS)	A (CA)	P	
Peggy Male	PM		A		
Nicola Bottomley	NB				
Jim Holden	JH		NFCC H&S liaison	A	P
Riccardo La Torre	RLT	Fire Brigades Union (FBU)			P
Ben Redwood	BR	Fire and Rescue Service Association (FRSA)	NA	P	
Tina Butler	TB	National Procurement Hub Lead	P	A	A
Sarah Walsh	SB	National PPE/Clothing lead	P	P	P
Elizabeth Noble	EN	Procurement Hub Programme Officer	P	P	P
Mark Lloyd	ML	Sub Committee Chair - Workwear	P	P	P
	BEB	Sub Committee Chair – Risk Assessment	P	P	P
	BEB	Sub Committee Chair - Structural	P	P	P
Dan Meeke	DM	Sub Committee Chair - Specialist	N/A	N/A	A
	SW	Sub Committee Chair - Commercial	P	P	P
Present at meeting	P	No Response			
Apologies given	A	Non-delivery / bounce back	ND		

Substitute attended	Sub			
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Minutes
Tuesday 7th February 2023
11:00- 13:00hrs
Hybrid Meeting – London Fire Brigade and via Teams

In attendance:	Steve Topham – Chair, Brett Egan-Briers Vice Chair, Sarah Walsh, Clive Robinson, Jayne Moore, Kirk Kelleher, Mark Lloyd, Liz Davies, Julia Skinner, Becky Jarrett, Leigh McEwan, Rob Clow, Ricardo La Torre, Jonathan Reid Elizabeth Noble
Apologies	
<u>(Item 1)</u>	
1.	<p>1.1 Welcome, introductions, apologies.</p> <p>ST welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies from; Dave Lofthouse, Tina Butler, Dan Meeke, Scott Wilson, Roddy McKinnon</p> <p>The Committee observed a minute’s silence in honour of FF Barry Martin.</p>
<u>(Item 2)</u>	
2.	<p>2.1 Minutes and matters from previous meeting.</p> <p>Accepted as an accurate reflection of the previous meeting.</p>
<u>(Item 3)</u>	
3.	<p>3.1 Action Log Review</p> <p>The following items were agreed to be closed:</p> <p>A42 A43 A44 A45</p> <p>The following items are still on-going:</p> <p>A26 A32 – This is being investigated by BEB NFCC role for BS liaison and BEB is in discussion with Jon Anderson in Cambridgeshire to understand how this will be filled, once this is understood BEB will be able to move this forward. A41</p>
<u>(Item 4)</u>	
4.	<p>4.1 Membership Review</p> <p>BEB asked for any updates on any SPOCS or Regional reps.</p> <p>Jayne Moore is going to update on the SPOCS for Eastern Region.</p>

	<p>Liz Davies (LD) updated for the West Midlands, Alex Shapland, has taken on the role however he is not sure if he has the capacity to fulfil the role, LD and Mandy Beasley are speaking to Alex and others within West Mids. to resolve.</p>
<p><u>(Item 5)</u></p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>5.1 Future Firefighter Update</p> <p>Since the last meeting in September all the interviews for the first phase of the project have been concluded, these interviews were focussed on user needs. Phase one is ongoing, DSTL are putting together their report which will be delivered in March 2023.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the project will be focussed on the concept design, as this will fall into a new financial year the project will need to be funded again. Originally the project was funded through the Home Office Commissioning Hub and the project will submit a request for further funding. Should this application be unsuccessful, and funding not be secured there is a plan B in place to obtain the funding via other routes. BEB hoped to be able to update the committee at the April meeting.</p>
<p><u>(Item 6)</u></p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>6.1 Committee Structure/Work Programme</p> <p>A change of structure was proposed to the committee by ST. This would mean a move away from the current sub committees and towards a task and finish approach which would see the skills and expertise of individuals within the committee utilised on specific tasks.</p> <p>Mark Lloyd (ML) commented that he agreed with task and finish structure and added that under the proposed new structure the committee needs to ensure that there is regional support. This was agreed by both ST and BEB and they added that further to this, reps could come from a wider pool outside of the committee group who could be utilised by the task and finish groups.</p> <p>BEB added that the regional reps could be extended to having two representatives per region which will help with both sharing of the workload but also help to build resilience into the committee.</p> <p>Jonathan Reid (JR) raised the issue around audit/ terms of reference prior to engaging with task and finish groups. BEB agreed that this is an important point and suggested that the current terms of reference both for the committee and all the sub committees be revised to reflect the new structure.</p> <p>Jayne Moore (JM) Clarified that all SPOCS are being requested to provide another regional representative, ST and BEB confirmed that this is what is required and that both representatives would be able to attend committee meetings. BEB went on to say that this is also extended to all the representative groups who are part of the committee; WFS, FBU, ASFA, FOA, FRSA</p>
<p><u>(Item 7)</u></p>	

7.	<p>7.1 UCLAN/FBU Report</p> <p>As the committees is, undoubtedly aware the UCLAN/FBU report was published earlier in the month (February 2023) As a result, BEB is receiving a lot of queries relating to particulate protection and fire hoods. Currently there are no standards relating to these types of protection. However, the revision of the EN and ISO fire hood standards are under revision and therefore will consider those type of protection for fire hoods. BEB attending ISO meeting where this will be discussed and then in March BED attending an EN meeting where again this will be discussed.</p> <p>Jagtar raised the issue of keeping ears exposed for firefighters to have an amount of temperature control. Jagtar also raised the of inclusivity for fire hood wearers and highlighted that cultural considerations need to be to be considered when procuring fire hoods. JS also suggested looking at American standards for fire hoods.</p> <p>ST confirmed that equality and diversity is something that is of the upmost importance to the committee, and this is reflected within the equality impact assessment. BEB confirmed that JS is correct that the American standards include particulate protection as an optional protection level and has done for several years. The American standard is under review, it currently includes a test method which is an ATSN test method which is not available within the UK or Europe so would have to be sent to America for testing. This would therefore need to be considered when establishing a new standard.</p> <p>Ricardo La Torre, requested for clarification around how the PPE/Clothing Committee and the Health and Safety Committee liaise with each other. ST confirmed that he has a meeting with the chair of the Health and Safety committee later in the week. Ricardo asked for an update on the outcomes of this conversation.</p>
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<u>(Item 8)</u>	
8.	<p>8.1 Update from Procurement Hub (Commercial Sub Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Rescue PPE – YPO - Generic PPE – DPS - Update regarding the next iteration of PPE Framework <p>Water Rescue PPE Sarah Walsh confirmed that communications will be issued over the next few weeks to understand requirements. This will include a sub agreement with the participating authorities stating that they will utilise the contract which is put in place as a result of the procurement process. BEB added that this will be moved forward at pace and the participation of all services is welcomed.</p> <p>Generic PPE Sarah Walsh confirmed that the DPS is currently under review, this is delayed due to the procurement of the E-procurement portal via Blue Light Commercial once this has been put in place the DPS will be moved forward utilising the E-procurement portal.</p>

<u>(Item 9)</u>	
9.	<p>9.1 Specifications</p> <p>Water Rescue</p> <p>There will be a requirement to refresh the specification for water rescue to ensure that requirements of all services are being met, to give a generic specification which all services can use. This will be along the lines of the DFRA guidance and the systems of work. This will be specification will be circulated to the committee post this meeting to obtain feedback and agreement on the specification.</p> <p>Procurement Hub Website – Committee Pages</p> <p>BEB drew the attention of the committee to two pages on the Procurement Hub Website, firstly the future firefighter project where information and documentation relating to the project can be found.</p> <p>There is also the PPE specification page, here you can find specifications which have been used for national procurements. Most of these will state that they are under review, this is work that will need to be completed by the committee. Those reviews will commence soon, as these specifications will lead into the future firefighter project. These will likely be task and finish groups in the near future.</p>
<u>(Item 10)</u>	
10.	<p>10.1 Inclusion (EqIA)</p> <p>BEB confirmed there have been no updates since last meeting. The document is available on the website.</p> <p>Jagtar offered to provide training on completing People impact assessments to the committee.</p> <p>ST thanked JS for the offer. ST highlighted that the document in place is strong but acknowledged the need for the document to be kept up to date.</p>
<u>(Item 11)</u>	
11	<p>11.1 BS, EN and ISO Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designation of EN469 - Revision of Updates <p>All Standards are currently under review, head to toe ensemble under both EN and ISO. This includes EN469 (2020) even though this has been adopted in the UK.</p> <p>1st round of comments will be discussed in the coming weeks and once the requirements have been consolidated into a list of requirements it will then be brought to the committee for consideration. Before the second round of comments are due in in autumn this year (2023)</p>

Within ISO there were previously 2 levels of protection – the overarching committee has requested that this is reduced to one level of protection. This has been a contentious request with participants of the group who wish that the protection stays at the higher level (this includes the UK) and there are some countries who want to level to go to the lower level of protection.

EN469 has both levels of protection but currently there no discussions around taking it to a singular level.

BEB raised the issue of particulate protection which is high on the agenda together with the new challenge posed by lithium-Ion batteries in terms of the explosive nature of these fires and the particles which are expelled from the fire which are essentially molten metal. None of our PPE has a performance requirement against molten metals.

There is a standard, and it can be incorporated within the firefighting standard, we believe that all the currently PPE passes those requirements. BEB will be taking this issue both within EN and ISO over the coming months.

As of earlier this month EN469 has become the designated standard. All new items of PPE will need to meet those requirements.

The standard has been designated with restrictions, it is important that the National foreword which states that the minimum level of performance within the document are not sufficient for UK firefighters, UK firefighters for many years and used higher level of protection. Buyers need to ensure that they have adequately cover off all performance requirements.

This links back into the decision to publish the specifications on the website to provide a point of reference, it will be the responsibility of the committee to make recommendations in terms of the performance moving forward.

(Item 12)

12 12.1 Items for further consideration/regional updates (risks, emerging issues & successes)

- MTA
- PPE Conference (17th and 18th May 2023)

MTA

BEB updated the committee to make them aware and corral MTA specifications the standards for ballistic specifications have changed since the 2012 Olympics, MTA national leads are currently undertaking a condition survey. However, there are services who require to replace their MTA now. This has led some services to go out alone. One issue with this is the colour of the kit, the burgundy colour that has been used previously is no longer available and with the need to able to identify different services (Fire/Police/Ambulance) within a situation, a national specification is required to ensure all services are working to the same specification.

BEB requested that any services with a requirement for MTA gets in touch with him for a conversation in associated with the National MTA leads to ensure that this is a joined-up piece of work.

PPE Conference

ST spoke about how much work is currently being completed within the sector and therefore the idea of a PPE conference has been put forward.

	<p>The conference will be held on 17th and 18th May at the Hub in Birmingham. This first of the two days will be aimed at Fire Chiefs, the second day suppliers will be invited along with fire and rescue services.</p> <p>Invitations will be sent to the committee and representative groups, there will be an online system to register attendance.</p>
<u>(Item 13)</u>	
13	<p>13.1 Next Meeting</p> <p>Provisional date 19th April 2023 venue to be confirmed.</p>