



## NFCC PPE/Clothing Committee

### Minutes

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

11:30- 13:30hrs

Hybrid Meeting – West Midlands Headquarters and via Teams

<b>In attendance:</b>	Steve Topham – Chair, Brett Egan-Briers Vice Chair, Tina Butler Sarah Walsh, Clive Robinson, Jayne Moore, Kirk Kelleher, Mark Lloyd, Liz Davies, Rob Clow, Scott Wilson, Jonathan Reid Elizabeth Noble
<b>Apologies</b>	Simon Anderson, Caroline Anderson, Mandy Beasley, Peggy Male and Jim Holden, Dave Lofthouse
<b><u>(Item 1)</u></b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>1.1 Welcome, introductions, apologies</b>  VC welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the Chair was delayed due to travel disruption.  Apologies from; Simon Anderson, Caroline Anderson, Mandy Beasley, Peggy Male, Jim Holden and Dave Lofthouse
<b><u>(Item 2)</u></b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>2.1 Minutes and matters from previous meeting</b>  Minutes from March meeting accepted as an accurate reflection of the meeting
<b><u>(Item 3)</u></b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>3.1 Action Log Review</b>  <b>The following items were agreed to be closed:</b> A10 A19  <b>The following items are still on-going:</b> A26 A32 A39
<b><u>(Item 4)</u></b>	

<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>4.1 DSTL Introductions</b></p> <p>Home office commissioning hub together with research and development Hub have been successful in their funding application to commission research into the future of firefighter clothing.</p> <p>Currently in the early stages, this research is looking at a brand refresh for our uniform and PPE. This project will be run by DSTL this is similar to the ongoing work being carried out by DSTL for the Police and MOD.</p> <p>BEB Introduced Fleur Vaughan – Project Manager DSTL (Defence Science and Technology) who outline that this project will sit under Crime and Policing services under DSTL which is normally referred to as CAPS.</p> <p>Elliott Traves from DSTL also joined the call, he will be supporting Fleur throughout the project.</p> <p>Aim for this project is to collect and analyse the future firefighter requirements to help shape the future of PPE requirements.</p> <p>This will be completed using a number of methods, including interviews and workshops.</p> <p>VC mentioned that this will be completed using the structure of the PPE/clothing committee, via regional representatives.</p> <p>Rob Clow (RC) asked if the scope of the project includes both PPE and Workwear – VC explained how this currently is unknown, and that there is the potential for the two to be combined together. Currently 93% of activity is non fire related, 7% non-structural fire related. Which raises the question: Is there a better way of getting the right protection for all the activities that we want; whilst ensuring that the uniform is as inclusive as possible and not a barrier to joining the service or continuing within the service?</p> <p>VC went on to say that internationally standards for station wear have been introduced which give levels of protection for station wear. Therefore this avenue needs to be explored to determine if this would be the correct option for the sector.</p> <p>Tina Butler outlined what will happen to the outcome of work with DSTL, a conversation has been held with Mark Hardingham to ensure that the outcome is rubber stamped by the NFCC. There will be a governance process which will ensure that all chiefs will sign up to the outcome of the project.</p>
<p><b><u>(Item 5)</u></b></p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>5.1 Update from the Commercial Sub Committee – Sarah Walsh</b></p> <p>At the latest meeting of the Commercial Sub Committee the Kent Social value policy was shared with the group.</p> <p>The group is continuing to look at tenders which come forward. The North West have issued a tender for fire structural set with responses due in September time.</p> <p>The group are working well together to share knowledge. The next meeting is due in September.</p>

	<p>BEB added that it is important that we understand why services do not join collaboration projects. In order to maximise the benefits.</p> <p>TB added that it is important for the commercial teams to look at how financial strength is being evaluated. In a struggling market, bidders are under bidding in order to be successful and this will be detrimental to those suppliers.</p> <p>Scott Wilson asked if it is possible for multiple suppliers to be considered in procurements in order to build in resilience into the process.</p> <p>BEB confirmed that moving forward into future procurements these decisions haven't been made but at the point of moving into new procurements these evaluations will be made.</p>
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**(Item 6)**

<b>6.</b>	<p><b>6.1 Update from the Specialist PPE Sub Committee</b></p> <p><b>Currently still looking for a chair for the specialist PPE Subcommittee. Steve Topham is currently working on this.</b></p> <p><b>Wildland Fires ensemble framework has been let with 2 services using the framework</b></p> <p><b>Coveralls will be available very soon.</b></p> <p><b>Water Rescue ensemble will be tendered via the newly updated YPO DPS later this month (June 2022)</b></p> <p><b>Generic PPE DPS will be let soon which will cover ancillary items.</b></p>
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**(Item 7)**

<b>7.</b>	<p><b>7.1 Update from Workwear Sub Committee – Mark Lloyd (ML)</b></p> <p><b>The group met 4<sup>th</sup> April. The group have looked at the garment wardrobe and generic sizing.</b></p> <p><b>In light of the update regarding the DSTL research the workwear sub-group are keen to understand the scope of the project and hope that workwear is included within the project, which will help to shape the direction of the subcommittee.</b></p> <p><b>As the research progresses and time moves on the group would look to factor in the findings of the research into the work of the sub group.</b></p> <p><b>The sub group are interested in looking to the future and factoring in any future considerations into the work of the subcommittee and encourage all services to do so and feed back to the subcommittee.</b></p> <p><b>Jayne Moore raised the issue relating to the current workwear contract and any new contracts consideration must be given to timing as services will not wish to change uniform after a short period of time.</b></p> <p><b>ML added to JM's point that when new agreements are put in place consideration to the length of those agreements needs to be made to enable services to join the agreement when it suits them but have a long enough time frame for their contract.</b></p>
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	<p>ST went on to say that is important to have a commitment up front from services even if they wouldn't be on boarding initially.</p> <p>RC asked for timescales regarding the DSTL Framework, BEB confirmed that the first tranche of work will go through to March 2023.</p>
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**(Item 8)**

<b>8.</b>	<p><b>8.1 Update from Disposable PPE – Steve Topham in the absence of Dave Lofthouse</b></p> <p>Dave Lofthouse was unable to attend the meeting but provided an update via Steve Topham. The Disposable group has 5 members now, a meeting was scheduled but unfortunately has had to be rearranged.</p>
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**(Item 9)**

<b>9.</b>	<p><b>9.1 Update from Structural PPE Sub Committee – Brett Egan-Briers</b></p> <p>Meeting held end of May, the requirements and specifications are being collated from around the country. This is a really important piece of work to understand the requirements from all services. The group had good discussions around innovation and better performing gloves, a trial is being run in West Mids regarding a fabric glove being used rather than a leather glove. There are also trials going on regarding particulate protection on fire hoods. All this information has been fed into DSTL.</p> <p>The fire helmet standard is under review as part of this the cleaning of fire helmets is under review.</p>
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**(Item 10)**

<b>10.</b>	<p><b>10.1 Risk Assessment Sub Committee – Brett Egan-Briers</b></p> <p>Risk assessment will be completed by the next meeting. The risk assessment will also be fed back to DSTL</p>
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**(Item 11)**

<b>11</b>	<p><b>11.1 Specifications – Brett Egan-Briers</b></p> <p>No specifications to discuss at this meeting</p>
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**(Item 12)**

12	<p><b>12.1 Procurement Hub – Tina Butler</b></p> <p><b>TB confirmed that the hub has been successful in the bid for further funding, the final figures have not yet been confirmed.</b></p> <p><b>There is a focus on working with Blue Light Commercial and the future of PPE moving into the next ten years.</b></p> <p><b>Continuing to report into the home office and the home office are keen to see what the PPE/Clothing committee are delivering.</b></p> <p><b>Fire Fighter safety is at the heat of the work the committee is doing and the Home office are aware of this which is why they have invested in the DSTL research.</b></p>
<b><u>(Item 13)</u></b>	
13	<p><b>13.1 Inclusion – Brett Egan-Briers</b></p> <p><b>No Specific issues were raised regarding inclusion, the inclusion document will be re-circulated to committee members.</b></p>
<b><u>(Item 14)</u></b>	
14	<p><b>14.1 BS EN and ISO Standards</b></p> <p><b>All Standards relating to Fire are under review.</b></p> <p><b>As and the draft documents are received these will be circulated to committee members, this is both in EN and ISO documents.</b></p> <p><b>A standards meeting is being held 15-19<sup>th</sup> August in Kent, colleagues who wish to attend as an observer should contact BEB.</b></p> <p><b><u>Designation of EN469</u></b></p> <p><b>The latest update on this is a meeting between British safety committee and the office for Product Safety and Standards and the way forward being suggested now is that the document will be designated with restrictions, it is likely this will point to ISO 11999 2015 which has a slightly higher minimum performance standard to that found in EN469.</b></p> <p><b>The longer term view is that there will be a defined national document either through national learning or NOG.</b></p> <p><b>RC asked for an update regarding ISO 23616 Cleaning Maintenance and Repair document, BEB confirmed that this has been published. ISO 23616 is very similar to BS8617. Currently, unsure how BSI will react to having two very similar documents. However, 23616 extends into respiratory protection and it may be that BS8617 will be withdrawn and ISO23616 will be the standard applied.</b></p>
<b><u>(Item 15)</u></b>	

15	<p><b>14.1 Barriers to National Procurement – Steve Topham</b></p> <p>ST opened the question to the group around ensuring any perceived barriers to National Procurement are removed.</p> <p>BEB raised the issue of ensuring that we as a committee are engaging with the appropriate colleagues in other services.</p> <p>JM added to this saying that sometimes it is the unformed side of the service where the engagement happens but then final decisions are made by commercial teams so it's important that both are consulted.</p> <p>TB said that for this piece of work the commercial element should not be included, there needs to be an understanding of what services think that 'good' is. The Home Office what to see the sector working to the same standard and therefore there is a need to understand what standards services want to work to.</p> <p>RC proposed that face to face engagement would be crucial. Getting buy in from PO level, which needs to happen on an individual basis.</p> <p>JM added that a culture change needs to happen within services and understanding the benefits of working under a framework.</p> <p>Scott Wilson suggested that there could be an opportunity to produce a video outlining the projects benefits which could be shared with all services before the engagement happens to ensure the right people are aware of the project.</p> <p>ML added that it's really important that there is trust between all parties, so building trust and relationships will be crucial.</p> <p>In conclusion ST said that it is really important to understand the barriers in order for them to be overcome.</p>
<b><u>(Item 16)</u></b>	
16	<p><b>14.1 Services that Provide Multiple Types of Tunics – Kirk Kellegher</b></p> <p>Services that provide 2 tunics mainly store their whistle in their structural tunic, there has been incidents where services have attended an incident where they were wearing their rescue tunic and the whistle was not available.</p> <p>BEB responded saying that the ability to provide two whistles would sit outside of the committee but the provision of having the ability to attach a whistle to both types of tunic would be sit under this committee.</p> <p>ST, added that this is an important matter and one that should be taken up by the NFCC Health and Safety Committee.</p>
<b><u>(Item 17)</u></b>	
17	<p><b>14.1 Items for further Consideration/Regional Updates (risks, emerging issues &amp; successes)</b></p>

	<b>No items raised</b>
<b><u>(Item 18)</u></b>	
18	<b>18.1 Sizer Presentation</b>  <b>Please see attached slide deck</b>
<b><u>(Item 19)</u></b>	
19	<b>19.1 Next Meeting</b>  Currently scheduled for 26 <sup>th</sup> September, however the Chair requested that this is moved due to availability, a revised invite will be sent in due course