



PPE/Clothing Committee

Minutes

Tuesday 29th June 2021

11:00 – 13:30hrs

Held Virtually Via Teams

In attendance:	Steve Topham – Chair Tina Butler, Brett Egan-Briers, Sarah Walsh, Simon Anderson, Robin Clow, Nigel Cusack, Julia Skinner, Matt Armstrong, Clive Robinson, Peggy Male Nicola Bottomly
Apologies	Mary Dawson, Sean Starbuck, Roddy MacKinnon, Nigel Williams, Steve Vincent
<u>(Item 1)</u>	
1.	1.1 Welcome, introductions, apologies and committee changes The meeting got underway with the chair welcoming everyone to the meeting. As mentioned at the previous meeting the position of Vice Chair is vacant and nominations were sought, one nomination was received from Brett Egan-Briers, Chair put this nomination to the committee and this was seconded by Tina Butler (TB) The committee accepted and welcomed Brett Egan-Briers to the role of Vice Chair (VC) Apologies: Mary Dawson, Sean Starbuck, Roddy MacKinnon, Nigel Williams, Steve Vincent
<u>(Item 2)</u>	
2.	2.1 Minutes and matters from previous meeting Minutes from September's meeting accepted as an accurate reflection of the meeting
<u>(Item 3)</u>	
3.	3.1 Action Log Review VC gave an update on Action A10 regarding the liaison with the Health and Safety Committee, Chris Davies has stepped down as Chair of the Health and Safety Committee his replacement being Martin Blunden of Scottish Fire and Rescue both the Chair and VC have a meeting with Martin scheduled for July. A19 Regional Feedback, Chair suggested that moving forward this item will be incorporated with the standing agenda item 'Items for Further Consideration (risks, emerging issues and successes)' Action log accepted as an accurate reflection of current actions

<u>(Item 4)</u>	
4.	4.1 Terms of Reference Revised Terms of Reference was issued the day before the meeting, TB apologies for the timing of the issuing of the document and asked that any further comments on the revised document are emailed to Elizabeth Noble (EN) Chair suggested that the Terms of reference are accepted in principal pending any feedback that is received from the committee in the next week.

(Item 5)

5. 5.1 Update on Sub Committees

VC gave an update on the sub committees. An initial meeting has been held to discuss the common approach and way forward for the sub committees. Each subcommittee has a draft terms of reference and a position statement of where we are on National frameworks and Projects. The next steps for each group is to arrange a meeting and agree a draft terms of reference. VC stated that we are still shy of the full representation which should come from the wider group. VC stressed that this is the infrastructure which will make the committee fully representative of all services across the country. VC encouraged committee members to reach out to the SPOCS in their region and encourage participation.

EN gave an update on current levels of representation:

Specialist PPE – 4

Workwear - 6

Structural PPE - 6

Disposable PPE - 1

Commercial – 2

Risk Assessment – 0

It was highlighted by TB the importance of the risk assessment group, which forms the foundation of the work of the committee.

Mark Hardingham the new NFCC Chair, is very interested and supportive of all the committees and sub committees, TB and the Chair have a meeting scheduled with Mark to discuss the work of the committee.

(Item 6)

6. 6.1 Update from Commercial and Procurement Sub Committee

Sarah Walsh provided an update on the commercial and Procurement Sub Committee currently has 2 members, representing Northamptonshire and Cleveland. A draft terms of reference has been circulated but SW would welcome more participants into the subcommittee.

SW suggested that as a committee there should be engagement around modern slavery, NGO and EDI SW proposed that experts be invited to deliver briefings to the committee on selected topics.

(Item 7)

7. 7.1 Update from Specialist PPE Sub Committee

Matt Armstrong is currently in the process of growing the size of the Specialist PPE Subcommittee and would welcome and further participants.

(Item 8)

8.	<p>8.1 Workwear Sub Committee</p> <p>VC gave a brief overview of the Workwear Sub Committee in the absence of Nigel Williams. VC informed the committee that Nigel's specific interest is that currently all the Welsh FRS's are going through the process of replacing their workwear and are experiencing some of the challenges of agreeing on a single specification.</p>
<u>(Item 9)</u>	
9.	<p>9.1 Disposable PPE</p> <p>Dave Lofthouse is still in the early stages of developing the subcommittee and is looking for more volunteers to sit on the group.</p>
<u>(Item 10)</u>	
10.	<p>10.1 Structural PPE</p> <p>Similar to the other sub committees VC is looking to grow the participation on the subcommittee.</p> <p>Collaborative PPE has now expired new project called National PPE for the replacement of structural firefighting kit for fire and rescue services PPE is scheduled to early start 2023 there is a possibility that this could be late 2022 and this will follow a very similar process to previous years.</p>
<u>(Item 11)</u>	
11	<p>11.1 Update from Risk Assessment Sub Committee</p> <p>No further details added please see item 5</p>
<u>(Item 12)</u>	
12	<p>12.1 Specifications</p> <p>Current specifications being developed relate to the Specialist PPE process, one of the additional lots under this process is going to be sent to market end of July using a dynamic purchasing system, this lot covers all PPE that is not covered by specific environments such as HAZMAT, Wildland, water Rescue the lot is not solely for operational staff and also contains items that would be used by non-operational staff such as high visibility clothing etc.</p> <p>VC will circulate the specifications with the committee to obtain approval before they are issued to the market.</p>
<u>(Item 13)</u>	
13	<p>13.1 NFCTP (Procurement Hub)</p>

	<p>Home Office remain focused on us and TB is making the benefits of the committee very clear and that these benefits are not purely financial but that wearer safety is paramount to the committee and this is supported by the Home Office.</p> <p>As mentioned previously Mark Hardingham has particular interest in the committees under the NFCC and all grant funded hubs.</p> <p>TB shared information on the new Procurement Hub website, this site is separate to the NFCC it is very much linked to and branded as NFCC the website will present the key messages to get stakeholders engaged with the programme, this includes providing information out to Industry. Documents such as meeting minutes and other relevant material will be shared on the website.</p>
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(Item 14)

14	<p>14.1 Inclusion</p> <p>The Equality impact assessment document is still live document and haven't been notified of anything needing to be added to that over the last period.</p> <p>VC is Keeping up to date with the police progress with the standard specification of the hijab through meetings with them. London are also making developments with this and as with the Police VC is keeping up to date with developments.</p> <p>The committee are still looking for an owner of the Equality Impact Assessment if there are any volunteers.</p>
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(Item 15)

15	<p>15.1 Standards</p> <p>Couple of updates from VC, first being around Treatments for Chemical Repellence C6 C8 PFOS PFAS Chemicals which are being phased out. The MOD were due to carry out market engagement this has been delayed due to BREXIT, this should be issued this week on the DASA (Defence and Security Accelerator) website.</p> <p>EN469 which was published in 2020 has been edited with no major changes to the content but has been edited for ease of reading.</p> <p>ISO 11999 Structural PPE, has also been revised, this used to include 2 levels of protection for structural firefighting, the revision now only has one level, which will be the highest level and all documents in the original series will sit under this level.</p> <p>Currently there is a British Standard for Cleaning and Maintenance 8617. A New Cleaning and Maintenance Standard is being developed at ISO level this includes cleaning of BA and clothing and in all likelihood when published British Standard 8617 will be replaced with this ISO document.</p> <p>EN17673 Smart Textiles for use in heat and flame testing, this standard is possibly one that will hold more relevance in the future and it relates to smart textiles which have sensory perception of outside environments etc. the first draft of the standard is out for comment and VC would welcome any editorial or technical comments from the</p>
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	committee. In particular if any committee member has or knows of someone in their services who has the technical expertise to comment on Section 8 – Electrical Safety and Functionality of Smart electronic components/devices, this would be welcomed by VC.
<u>(Item 16)</u>	
16	<p>16.1 Items for Further Consideration (risks, emerging issues and successes)</p> <p>Rob Clow gave an update on the wildfire trials. A measurement day took place in May in Northumberland, there is a fitting day scheduled for August and the trials will take place in September in Harwood Forrest which is forestry commission owned land in Northumberland.</p> <p>Rob Stacey is currently working on the welfare arrangements for the participants Rob will liaise with VC on the evaluation process.</p> <p>VC gave an update on the other 2 wearer evaluations. Scotland are assisting with the Water Rescue ensembles which will be taking place in September</p> <p>HAZMAT evaluations have been undertaken in Hampshire, remote measuring is happening next week and the trials will take place in September.</p> <p>Depending on COVID restrictions committee members will be invited to witness the evaluation process. Another update on this will be shared with the committee nearer the time.</p> <p>Julia Skinner clarified with VC if Water Rescue included Life Jackets, VC confirmed that both PFD and Life Jackets up to 100 newton's and 275 newton's.</p>
<u>(Item 17)</u>	
17	<p>17.1 AOB</p> <p>No items raised</p>
<u>(Item 18)</u>	
18	<p>18.1 Next Meeting 9th September 2021 13:00-15:30 (Via Teams)</p> <p>Chair mentioned that we will keep up to date with covid restrictions and assess if we are able to hold either a physical meeting or a blend of both.</p>

