



NFCC PPE/Clothing Committee Meeting 25/07/2023 Attendance log and Minutes

Name	Initial	Representing	Date 25/07/23	Date 17/10/23	Date 15/01/24	Date TBC
Steve Topham	ST	Chair & National Sponsor of Collaborative PPE	P			
Brett Egan-Briers	BEB	Vice Chair & National Technical Lead for PPE/Clothing	P			
Greg Board	GB	Regional Representative South East	A			
David Pike	DP	Regional Representative South East	P			
Jonathan Reid	JR	Regional Representative London	A			
Paul McCourt	PMc	Regional Representative London	P			
Jayne Moore	JM	Regional Representative Eastern	P			
Kevin Downard	KD	Regional Representative Eastern	P			
Robin Clow	RC	Regional Representative North East	P			
Richard Hannant-Thompson	RHT	Regional Representative North East	P			
Andy James	AJ	Regional Representative North West & N. Ireland				
Rod Steele	RS	Regional Representative North West & N. Ireland	P			
Nathan Harris	NH	Regional Representative Wales	A			
David Morgans	DMo	Regional Representative Wales	P			
Roddy McKinnon	RMc	Regional Representative Scotland	P			
Tulsa Davidson	TD	Regional Representative Scotland				
Dave Lofthouse	DL	Regional Representative Yorkshire and Humberside				
David Teggart	DT	Regional Representative Yorkshire and Humberside				
Mark Lloyd	ML	Regional Representative Yorkshire and Humberside	A			
Liz Davies	LD	Regional Representative West Midlands	P			
Jo Davis	JD	Regional Representative East Midlands	P			

Neil Villiers	NV	Regional Representative East Midlands	P			
Paul Langdell	PL	Regional Representative South West	P			
TBC		National Operational Guidance (NOG)				
Clive Robinson	CR	Fire Officers Association (FOA)	P			
Jamie Kelly	JK	AFSA National Advisor				
Dalvinder Rai	DR	AFSA National Advisor				
Jan Morris	JMorris	Women in the Fire Service (WFS)	P			
Peggy Male	PM					
Teresa Kelly	TK	NFCC H&S liaison				
Luke Gazzard	LG	NFCC Contaminants Group	A			
Warren Lyndon	WL	National Resilience	P			
Riccardo La Torre	RLT	Fire Brigades Union (FBU)	A			
Ben Redwood	BR	Fire and Rescue Service Association (FRSA)	P			
Sarah Walsh	SB	National PPE/Clothing lead	P			
Present at meeting	P	No Response				
Apologies given	A	Non-delivery / bounce back	ND			
Substitute attended	Sub					

Minutes
Tuesday 25th July 2023
11:00 – 13:00hrs
Hybrid Meeting – London Fire Brigade Headquarters and via MS Teams

In attendance:	Steve Topham – Chair, Brett Egan-Briers - Vice Chair, Sarah Walsh, Paul Kavanagh, Clive Robinson, Rod Steele, Andy James, David Pike, David Morgans, Gillian Maxwell, Jayne Moore, Jim Hindle, Kevin Downard, Lee Duncan, Robin Clow, Roddy McKinnon, Liz Davies, Paul Langdell, Janette Morris, Paul McCourt, Richard Hannant-Thompson, Neil Villiers, Mandy Millar, Julia Skinner, Warren Lyndon, Jo Davis, Ben Redwood, Megan Whitehead (Notes)
Apologies	Mark Lloyd, Greg Board, Jonathan Reid, Nathan Harris, Riccardo La Torre and Luke Gazzard.
<u>(Item 1)</u>	
1.	1.1 Welcome, introductions, apologies. ST welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from; Mark Lloyd, Greg Board, Jonathan Reid, Nathan Harris, Riccardo La Torre and Luke Gazzard.

<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: A51 – standard reporting templates for the committee sent out with the papers for the meeting. One being a formal reporting template for any task and finish groups set up and a regional summary report for each meeting on PPE and contaminants in their region.</p> <p>The following items are still on-going: A47 – noted that Scotland, West Midlands and Southwest are still outstanding with an additional representative, names to be confirmed.</p> <p>A48 – options for a meeting have been sent to RLT, awaiting a response.</p> <p>A49 – BEB to share a draft position statement, BEB request comments be sent by the end of next week (4th August) to BEB or MW (MSO).</p> <p>A50 – Scope developed, ST to circulate for feedback by the end of next week (4th August), ST requested for a lead and if anyone would like to join the Task and Finish Group. JMorris to lead in the interim. JM also volunteered.</p>
<u>(Item 4)</u>	
4.	<p>Academic Working in Fire PPE - ST</p> <p>Request from NFCC on academic studies happening in the sector on PPE. ST informed a central repository for academic research is available for items to be collated. BEB can submit research available on contamination. PK advised a H&S colleague has a list of contaminants-based research that can be provided along with some additional research that is currently in the early stages.</p> <p>JM advised of testing in Essex with Bureau Veritas on the level of contaminants on workwear, JM will share the results when they are available. ST can submit research from Humberside.</p> <p>BEB can submit a presentation from ISO from SIOEN that could be presented to the committee, this has links to other studies on skin absorption. Another study can be provided on additional protection for female Firefighters, a consultant opinion was sought but a business case to enable a small piece of research work is unlikely to be approved.</p> <p>ST queried if there is nothing in the standards to provide extra protection although some suppliers do provide extra protection. BEB advised not in the European or national standards.</p>
<u>(Item 5)</u>	
5.	PPE Conference Feedback - BEB

BEB advised 120 registered for the event and BEB received 31 responses to the survey, the following 7 questions were asked in the survey:

1. Should the conference be a yearly event? – 77% said yes.
2. Who should the audience be? – Finance representatives, suppliers, strategic leaders, operational leads with PPE responsibilities, commercial and procurement leads and health and safety advisors.
3. Were the planned sessions on day 2 useful? – 71% yes.
4. How easy was the registration process? – 90% yes.
5. How was the organisation of the event? – 97% good, parking signage could have been clearer.
6. How was the virtual experience? - Less response, but no one clearly satisfied or dis-satisfied.
7. what would you like to be discussed in future? – DSTL updates, contaminants updates, EDI updates, supply chain updates, standards updates, and one comment on an open discussion on best practice to help in the prevention of contaminants.

BEB therefore suggested an event to be planned for 2024, a date and venue need to be confirmed and potential sponsorship needs to be considered as West Midlands venue was at capacity and the event may need a larger venue.

ST proposed an annual event over 2 days. ST highlighted if the conference was to expand to run similar to other NFCC conferences, sponsorship will be required. Sponsors will look to request presentation time at the conference. ST questioned if the conference was to expand whether to include more commercial elements or to keep neutral in terms of suppliers.

SW suggested to keep to sector only attendance as including suppliers will involve an element of competitiveness.

ST suggested that suppliers that wish to sponsor could be give an item to present, but not on selling. BEB highlighted a need to be fair to all suppliers as sponsorship budgets amongst suppliers will differ and a standard offer will need to be agreed for any supplier. BEB also suggested the option for attendees to be charged to cover a venue budget if West Midlands is not used as the venue.

BEB suggested the commercial group to submit parameters to be considered before making any commitments to the market.

ACTION: S Walsh to look at the commercial element of sponsorship for the PPE Conference in 2024.

ACTION: ST and BEB to consider a date and venues for the PPE Conference in 2024.

Option to look at other Fire Brigades around the country to see if they have any options as a venue, rather than keeping it central. BEB advised the hub at West Midlands can take 90 in tables and 120 in theatre style, but they met capacity on day one. BEB suggested targeting the audience and limiting attendance to FRS as options to use West Midlands.

(Item 6)

6. Specifications (agenda item to be changed to National Projects) - MM

BEB requested the agenda item moving forward be named National Projects. BEB introduced Mandy Millar who is running the national procurement process for water rescue. BEB and MM request approval from the committee to release tender papers on 1st August.

MM presented the Water Rescue Paper to present a plan for the procurement for water rescue PPE, it was previously part of the national specialist PPE procurement and the water rescue was not awarded at the end of the process. Various consultation has taken place with the sector and suppliers to move this forward.

Participating authorities require to sign up to the inter authority agreement which includes a commitment to the eventual contract. Only authorities signed up can participate in the contract.

First request was for formal approval from the committee to procure the contract by further competition via the DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System). The DPS provides access to a list of pre-qualified suppliers and allows for an expedited procurement process, new suppliers can be added to the DPS. A prior information notice has been issued to the market to make suppliers aware of the opportunity and instructs them to the DPS if interested. No additional suppliers have been added to date.

Request Approved

Second request to approve the recommendation that the contract be awarded for a period of four years, an initial three years with the option to extend for a further one year.

Request Approved

Third request to approve the recommendation that the contract is to be awarded based on the lot structure as follows:

1. Dry Suits, Under Garments, Waders, Flood Suits, Gloves and Skull Caps
2. Personal Flotation Devices
3. Boots
4. Marine Helmet
5. Water Safety Helmet

Each lot is to be awarded to the single supplier; however suppliers may bid for and be awarded to more than one lot.

Request Approved

Fourth request to approve the recommendation that the contract be awarded based on the Contract Award Criteria as detailed in the Water Rescue PPE paper.

Request Approved

Fifth request to approve the issue of invitation to tender on 1st August 2023. The Commercial Group have reviewed and agreed the content of the invitation to tender.

Request Approved

The final request was to formally approve the issue of the technical specifications, as part of the overall ITT. There are no fundamental changes from the previous version and the final versions shall be shared with the PPE and Clothing Committee once complete.

Request Approved

Future Firefighters - BEB

	<p>BEB updated on the Future Firefighter Project. Last update was from the NR Conference. BEB advised the final report from Phase 1 was shared to senior strategic lead in NFCC but is yet to receive a finalised version due to editorial comments regarding unfunded items. Phase 2, submitted in December. BEB has not yet received a finalised response from DSTL or the Home Office but has been assured it is in the system by the Home Office.</p> <p>BEB recommends requesting Mark Hardingham to release to all Chiefs a progress on the project to have outcomes suitable to use in 2025. BEB has communicated via Chiefs they may have to extend contracts or put in interim arrangements to come in line with the 2025 date to go to market. BEB will communicate an update once received.</p> <p>ST approves the recommendation to engage Mark Hardingham to feedback to Chiefs on the current position.</p> <p>SW advised she is in early conversations with Bristol Uniforms for anyone on collaborative contracts as a result of the PPE conference, SW will put this in writing following a meeting to see if they would like to carry on providing in an interim period.</p> <p>ACTION: ST and BEB to meet with Mark Hardingham on the Future Firefighters Project to update Chiefs.</p>
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(Item 7)

7.	<p>Presentations - ST</p> <p>ST advised this was an item agreed for suppliers to present on key issues and for the Committee to be updated on commercial items. ST advised ST and BEB are organising a presentation of the implications of PFAS chemicals. Tentative date booked for the 6th September at 10am for STEDFAST to update on the implications. This will be a virtual meeting.</p> <p>Any Committee members who have any other topics they would like a presentation on, ST requested they be sent via email to BEB, ST or MW.</p>
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(Item 8)

8.	<p>Inclusion (EqIA) - BEB</p> <p>BEB advised there has been no new amendments to the quality impact assessment published on the website.</p> <p>The latest information was the publication of a new ISO standard for menopausal practices in a workplace. BEB is still looking for a lead on this document, any volunteers to contact BEB.</p>
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(Item 9)

9.	<p>BS, EN and ISO Standards - BEB</p> <p>BEB presented a summary of British Standards that have a responsibility with PPE and the equivalent to CEN and/or ISO Standards.</p>
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	<p>European Standards has precedent over UK Standards, ISO have the higher level of hierarchy.</p> <p>PH1 – Safety and Protective Footwear Awaiting a draft for comment on safety footwear with resistance to chain saw cutting. Footwear for Firefighter also waiting a draft for comment.</p> <p>A new standard created for surface water and unstable rescue. BEB has circulated how people can engage with the commenting process through the BSI portal.</p> <p>PH3/2 - Heat and Flame PPE The Firehoods standard, BEB awaiting timescales for revision of the document and any draft for circulation.</p> <p>Minor amendments required awaiting draft for circulation for EN 469:2020 has no particular protection within the document.</p> <p>PH 3/14 – Protective Gloves Awaiting a progress report for protection from thermal risks and awaiting a progress report for gloves for Firefighters. This includes technical rescue gloves and wildfire gloves.</p> <p>PH6/3 - Helmets Detailed revision in progress, looking at a published document in 24 months due to the complex detail arising. UK comments have stated the revisions need to encompass the ease of de-contamination for wearers to enable kit to be ready for a quick turnaround.</p> <p>Suppliers do have input as well as end users.</p> <p>PH14 - Firefighters PPE Structural firefighting in ISO. ISO 23616 - out for public comment. ISO 21808 – originally a SUCaM document, now split into SU (Selection and Use) and CIR (Cleaning, Inspection and Repair).</p> <p>ISO 11999 and ISO 5056 – out for public comment</p> <p>ISO 15384 and ISO 18639 – both are awaiting details for circulation, up for review and it's been agreed there is to be a review.</p> <p>In ISO they have considered the WHO (World Health Organisation) classification of firefighting as a work group that will lead to an exposure of carcinogens. The overarching take on this is the committee cannot ignore that, can't be optional as included in the drafts. Instruction from ISO needs to be addressed and the known risk that needs to be catered for in the standards.</p> <p>BEB stated that the ISO community differ between Europe and European SEND committees and the rest of the world in how they feel about particular protection. They are not willing to sign up to a mandatory requirement, they want to keep this as optional.</p>
	<p><u>(Item 10)</u></p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Health and Safety Committee Update</p> <p>BEB provided a Health and Safety Committee update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh H&S rep reported steam burns with ill-fitting gloves. DM advised some in the training dept, but guidance has been re-issued.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to look at arc flash protection with electric vehicles. BEB will review standards and report back to the Committee. • Northern Irish representative for H & S Committee, BEB queried if a North Ireland representative would want to join the PPE Committee. Northwest will query this. • Health concerns around radio frequency and the installation of 5G masts. Ops exposure considered to be low and no further risks to be considered. • UCLAN research, queries on how long the data is taking to be published. Those who have tested and been advised they have markers haven't been getting the information from UCLAN and are having to go to their GP to understand the markers on their health. • H&S Executive to visit 14 services in regards to contamination. • Fatality in Scotland was not PPE related. <p>ACTION: Northwest to speak with the Northern Ireland Representative to query if they want to join the PPE Committee to represent Northern Ireland.</p>
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(Item 11)

11	<p>Ops Committee Update</p> <p>ST provided an update from the Ops Committee, which has changed it's name to OPRR Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to NFCC, Kerry Blair to be Head of Ops Response/Control. • Pay wall area on NFCC website in September. • Notable Occurrences of extreme fire behaviour. • NOL Submission being made. • Wildfire survey/report 22 due imminently. • Now a wildfire co-ordination group including NFCC/HO/CO/NR for red risk. • MTA JOP 3rd edition draft, changes ref zones/on scene command i.e. joint decision/clarification on command roles/casualty management (10sec triage). • Critical change, non-specialist responders responding to warm zone with or without ballistic PPE. • Issues with NOL – officers not clear about guidance. Issue around Lith-Ion batteries. • National resilience – discussion on position on Crown dependencies. • High rise – looking at evacuation guidance, potential for change in sectorisation include stairwell cutting across all other sectors. Research into Firefighter physiology with academic research.
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(Item 12)

12	<p>Contaminants Group Update</p> <p>BEB provided an update from the Contaminants Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group for PPE workstream, headed by Luke Gazzard. • Workstreams looking at standards, particularly product standards. Want to put in our input on PFAS, absorption research and the work on contaminants to feed into the group. • Review our care and maintenance arrangements, BEB previously reported of obtained funding to do a very simple Bureau Veritas comparison against two different types of LCL, two cleaning and two different aqueous treatments and washing facilities. • Literature review, need to ensure any changes are supported by research, data or evidence.
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(Item 13)

13	<p>Items for further Consideration/Regional Updates (risks, emerging issues & successes).</p> <p>ST thanked attendees for their regional updates. For future meetings, ST requested to send your individual region update if the rest of the region does not send their update.</p> <p>ST queried if there were any further updates to be raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North West are trialling arcing gloves for EV cars. <p>RC queried which template was to be used for the meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: MW to review and re-circulate the reporting templates.</p>
(Item 14)	
14	<p>AOB</p> <p>JMorris queried where the EQIA is held, ST will action this.</p> <p>ACTION: BEB to send over the EQIA to JMorris.</p>