



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	
Brett Egan-Briers	BEB	Vice Chair & National Technical Lead for PPE/Clothing	P	P	
	BEB	Regional Representative South East	P	P	
Jonathan Reid	JR	Regional Representative London	P	P	
Jayne Moore	JM	Regional Representative Eastern	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	
Gareth Davies	GD	Regional Representative Wales			
Roddy McKinnon	RMc	Regional Representative Scotland		P	
Dave Lofthouse	DL	Regional Representative Yorkshire and Humberside	A	P	
Liz Davies	LD	Regional Representative West Midlands	Sub - LD	Sub - LD	
Julia Skinner	JS	Regional Representative East Midlands	N/A	P	
Scott Wilson	SW	Regional Representative South West	P	P	
Kirk Kelleher	KK	National Operational Guidance (NOG)	P	P	
Clive Robinson	CR	Fire Officers Association (FOA)	P		
Jagtar Singh	JS	AFSA National Advisor		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)			
Ben Redwood	BR	Fire and Rescue Service Association (FRSA)	NA	P	
Tina Butler	TB	National Procurement Hub Lead	P	A	
Sarah Walsh	SB	National PPE/Clothing lead	P	P	
Elizabeth Noble	EN	Procurement Hub Programme Officer	P	P	
Mark Lloyd	ML	Sub Committee Chair - Workwear	P	P	
	BEB	Sub Committee Chair – Risk Assessment	P	P	
	BEB	Sub Committee Chair - Structural	P	P	
Dan Meeke	DM	Sub Committee Chair - Specialist	N/A	N/A	
	SW	Sub Committee Chair - Commercial	P	P	
Present at meeting	P	No Response			
Apologies given	A	Non-delivery / bounce back	ND		

Substitute attended	Sub			
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Minutes
Monday 12th September 2022
11:30- 13:30hrs
Hybrid Meeting – London Fire Brigade and via Teams

In attendance:	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
Apologies	Clive Robinson and Prof Anna Stec
<u>(Item 1)</u>	
1.	<p>1.1 Welcome, introductions, apologies</p> <p>ST welcomed everyone to the meeting</p> <p>Apologies from; Clive Robinson and Prof Anna Stec</p>
<u>(Item 2)</u>	
2.	<p>2.1 Minutes and matters from previous meeting</p> <p>ST asked for one amendment to the minutes 12.1 heat needs to be changed to heart. EN to update.</p> <p>Minutes from June meeting accepted as an accurate reflection of the meeting</p> <p>Agreed that all previous meeting minutes will be published on the PPE/Clothing section of the National Procurement Hub website.</p>
<u>(Item 3)</u>	
3.	<p>3.1 Action Log Review</p> <p>The following items were agreed to be closed: A39</p> <p>The following items are still on-going: A26 A32 A41</p>
<u>(Item 4)</u>	
4.	<p>4.1 Contaminants Update – Brett Egan-Briars (BEB)</p> <p>Unfortunately Professor Anna Stec was unable to make the meeting. BEB gave the following update regarding contaminants.</p>

The Joint Funded FBU/UCLAN report is due to be issued shortly, this report is in 4 parts, one of which focuses on PPE.

The report summarises the recent survey which was undertaken, this survey received 11,000 respondents of which 7000 gave free text responses. BEB has discussed with Anna Stec the possibility of the committee being able to view this data but as this research has been jointly funded permission needs to be given by the FBU.

BEB is keen for the committee to meet with Anna with the potential of either inviting Anna to attend the next committee meeting in January 2023 or holding a one off meeting in the interim.

Jim Holden (JH) added that the Health and Safety committee are also looking at the report and the chair of the Health and Safety committee indicated that there may be a review of the position statement previously given by NFCC. The research will be reviewed by the Health and Safety committee when it has been fully published.

JH reiterated the importance of the Health and Safety committee and the PPE/Clothing Committee working closely together on this.

ST asked JH if he was aware if the NFCC would be commissioning their own research on this subject. JH confirmed that he wasn't aware of a report being commissioned but that a literature review will be undertaken soon.

(Item 5)

5. 5.1 DSTL Update Brett Egan-Briars (BEB)

Through the letters sent by ST DSTL are making contact with each region and representative group. The Five representative groups which have been contacted alongside all the services are FBU, Fire Officers Associated, Fire and Rescue Associated, Women in the Fire Service and AFSA

BEB highlighted the importance of engagement and regional reps ensuring that all services within each region are included and that interviews should not be attended by one service only. BEB asked the committee to contact him with any suggestions of additional groups to consult with.

In addition to the interviews mentioned above with the regions and the 5 representative groups there will also be an interview with strategic representative from NFCC including Mark Hardingham and one other interview with the Procurement Hub regarding the national approach to procurement and collaboration.

The first phase report is due to be completed by March 2023 and talks are already under way regarding phase 2/3 where the research is used to develop concept designs and taking those through to wearer trials.

Jagtar Singh mentioned two upcoming events, one Black History Month in October and the other being the ASFA conference, JS suggested that this could be used as an opportunity to hold a workshop.

Robin Clow, fed back from his region that services were finding it difficult to know who should attend the interviews as each service is being restricted to one representative, RC asked for some clarity around attendees.

BEB confirmed that at the moment the interviews should be attended by those who have operational experience, who can discuss what is good/bad about their PPE what they would like to see, the interview is around the wearer experience.

With the above in mind Julia Skinner (JS) asked if the East Midlands should review their submission to DSTL as the majority of the attendees were from a procurement background.

Fleur Vaughan and Dan Flint joined the call, FV gave a presentation on the research. FV is going on maternity leave and therefore communication should be sent to Dan Flint

(Item 6)

6. 6.1 Update from Commercial Sub Committee Sarah Walsh (SW)

SW confirmed that since the June meeting the commercial group have not met. A date for the commercial group meeting will be organised for October 2022.
SW and BEB will be attending the Emergency Services Show and have appointments available for one to one meetings.

Wildland Fires ensemble framework has been let with 2 services using the framework

Coveralls will be available very soon.

Water Rescue ensemble will be tendered via the newly updated YPO DPS later this year.

JH asked if there is an assessment of the requirements. BEB confirmed that the specifications were shared with the committee prior to going to tender, this was also shared with the NFCC wild fire group.

Generic PPE DPS will be let soon which will cover ancillary items.

(Item 7)

7. 7.1 Update from Specialist PPE Sub Committee

This sub group is looking for a new chair, ST confirmed that he would like to put forward, Dan Meeke to take up the role as chair of the specialist PPE Subcommittee. There were no objections to this, therefore Dan will be welcomed to the committee.

Wildland Fires ensemble framework has been let with several services using the framework.

Water Rescue ensemble will be tendered via the newly updated YPO DPS, aim to deliver this by the end of the year

(Item 8)

8. 8.1 Update from Workwear Sub Committee – Mark Lloyd

Last met 4th July. The workwear group are very much aware of the DSTL work and don't want to go off in the wrong direction so will be guided by the outcome of the research. In the meantime ML is trying to grow the participation on the group as there are some regions not represented.

<u>(Item 9)</u>	
9.	<p>9.1 Update from Disposable PPE Sub Committee – Dave Lofthouse</p> <p>Dave Lofthouse is planning a survey to understand what services are currently using. Once the holiday period is over DL will organise a meeting ahead of the next committee in January 2023.</p> <p>Meeting held end of May, the requirements and specifications are being collated from around the country.</p> <p>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>
<u>(Item 10)</u>	
10.	<p>10.1 Update from Structural PPE Sub Committee – Brett Egan-Briers</p> <p>No movement on this group due to workload that BEB currently has. BEB requested that the committee look for a new subcommittee lead to enable this group to move forward. In the interim BEB will plan a meeting but with a new chair.</p> <p>Any volunteers will be greatly appreciated, this will not only help spread the load of the work but also the knowledge.</p> <p>BEB outlined that it is an exciting time within PPE currently with the opportunity to shape what PPE looks like in the future. The DSTL research is funded by the Home Office and therefore they are looking for the research to be successful and the outcomes implemented. Looking at both Structural PPE and workwear together is the most appropriate way to move forward.</p> <p>EN469 is still being debated by OPSS, they are keen for the national specification to be published, and the specification would be an output from the structural sub committee. As an interim measure the collaborative PPE specification can be issued titled 'under review' and this can be published on the website.</p> <p>ST reiterated the need for the new chair for both Structural and Risk Assessment groups and urged the current members of the two groups to consider taking on the role or looking to others who may have specialisms in those areas to take them on.</p>
<u>(Item 11)</u>	
11	<p>11.1 Update from Risk Assessment Sub Committee – Brett Egan-Briers</p> <p>As above</p> <p>No movement on this group due to workload that BEB currently has. BEB requested that the committee look for a new subcommittee lead to enable this group to move forward. In the interim BEB will plan a meeting but with a new chair.</p> <p>Any volunteers will be greatly appreciated, this will not only help spread the load of the work but also the knowledge.</p>

<u>(Item 12)</u>	
12	<p>12.1 Specifications – Brett Egan-Briers</p> <p>No new specifications to update.</p> <p>RC had a question related to ISO 23616 – Cleaning and Maintenance and repair of PPE, and whether this has been published. BEB confirmed that this has been discussed in mid-August and will be published soon. Once published the Committee will need to decide what happens to British Standard 8617 which is the current standard for Cleaning Maintenance and repair of PPE.</p>
<u>(Item 13)</u>	
13	<p>13.1 Procurement Hub Update – Tina Butler</p> <p>TB updated on the progress that has been made by the police with regards to their work with DSTL. The Police are undertaking a similar project but are a few steps ahead and their research should be published soon. TB has spoken with Blue Light Commercial who will look after any commercial arrangements which form following the work with DSTL. Home office are keen for Fire to work with Police, after the completion of phase one we can then turn our attention to how Fire and Police can potentially work together.</p> <p>In terms of grant funding into the Procurement Hub, the funding looks good for the next 2 years and BEB is liaising directly with the Home Office regarding funding for Future Firefighter project.</p>
<u>(Item 14)</u>	
14	<p>14.1 Inclusion</p> <p>BEB confirmed that the Equality Impact Assessment Document will be published on the website.</p> <p>BEB also asked for a volunteer to take on the ownership of this document on behalf of the committee</p> <p>BSI have commissioned a new piece of work 'Diversity and PPE' encompasses all PPE not Fire specific. Jan from Women in the fire Service has agreed to be part of this project. BSI will also be reaching out to the other 4 representative groups to invite them to engage with this project. There is a white paper which BSI have published and this can be shared with the group.</p>
<u>(Item 15)</u>	
15	<p>15.1 BS, EN and ISO Standards – Brett Egan-Briers</p> <p>As mentioned at previous meetings all Standards relating to Fire are under review.</p>

Committee PH1 – Safety footwear

Fire fighter boot standard slightly delayed due to work undertaken in ISO around generic footwear ISO 20435/456/437 the labelling of standards will be changing, using new terminology, which when available will be shared with the committee

3 Matters have been raised

- Penetration test – completed with a blunt nail – the response to this is a sharp nail test will be introduced. The next step is to introduce a hot nail test.
- Linked to the penetration test this is specified in newton's force, traditionally the fire sector have over specified as this doesn't give enough protection
- Delamination of soles, the testing methodology doesn't reflect the role of the firefighters

As soon as the draft standard is ready this will be shared with the committee.

Committee PH32 – Heat and Flame

EN469 Structural and 13911 FIRE Hoods. Even though EN469 (2020) is still being discussed with regards to the designation of the document, EN469 (2020) is under review. Work is going on under both these of these due to a number of reasons, the contaminants issue and the requirement for particulate protection to be built into the garments and then what standards that particulate protection needs to be subject to.

Currently there is a debate as to the size of the particulate, which is going through scientific evaluation including work by Anna Stec, to determine what size particulates are acceptable. Understanding the size of particulates most commonly encountered by the fire fighters and the test methods they need to withstand.

This is not an easy subject and it is likely that this review will continue for 24 months.

Committee PH38 – Safety Gloves

The change to the glove standard now has three different options of gloves; wild fire, technical rescue and structural glove. All three gloves will be built into one document. BEB has reviewed the document and some of the levels do not meet our current levels. BEB has fed this back however if this feedback does not result in any changes then a national foreword would be added to the documents to ensure that services are using the correct standard.

Committee PH63 – Fire Fighters Helmets

This document is in the early stages of revision, need to look at the current document and review what needs to be kept and what needs work on, BEB asked the committee to send all comments to him to take forward.

Committee PH14 – All documents out of ISO

Another raft of Fire Fighting standards. These tend to have slightly higher standards to EN standards and the ISO standards are more relevant to the U.K standards than the EN standards as they currently stand.

ISO standard for structural firefighting was in two levels; level one and level two, the direction of the committee is that standards should only have one level and the challenge temperature should be the highest level of 260 degrees Celsius

There is also a new ensemble standards which is in its early stages, when the documents are ready these will be shared with the committee to comment.

	<p>Timescales on this are 12-18 months.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to increase our representation on this group, including end user representation. Should anyone be interested in this please contact BEB.</p>
<u>(Item 16)</u>	
16	<p>14.1 PPE and LIB Fires – Brett Egan-Briers</p> <p>NFCC Received information from prof. Paul Christenson relating to the impact on PPE and is an emerging theme that needs to be considered. Through standards work we have been looking at molten metal splash but so far this has been unsuccessful. BEB is in contact with Prf. Christenson and will look to invite him to the next committee meeting in January.</p>
<u>(Item 17)</u>	
17	<p>14.1 Items for further Consideration/Regional Updates (risks, emerging issues & successes)</p> <p>Jonathan Reid raised the issue of women’s PPE being unavailable last month. SW is aware of the issues and has a meeting with Bristol to discuss. Some of the issues have been caused by the unprecedented hot weather and lack of resilience in laundry availability but this will be addressed at that meeting</p> <p>Kirk Kellegher brought to the attention of the committee the PPE control measure is going to be updated. KK will provide the document to be shared with the committee.</p>
<u>(Item 18)</u>	
18	<p>18.1 Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 8th November 2022 potential supplier day</p> <p>Monday 9th January 2023 venue TBC</p>