



# FIA ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**Fire Industry Association**  
Leading Excellence in Fire Since 1916



**Ian Moore,**  
Chief Executive Officer of the FIA

# Executive Summary

*Last year, we were all thankful for the easing and removal of restrictions arising from the Covid pandemic that enabled normal life to resume in both our business and social activities. The consequences of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine have now however placed the world in a new crisis that has wreaked further devastating havoc on the global order which has led to levels of inflation not seen for over 50 years. Indeed, inflation is expected to rise to around 18% early in 2023 with energy prices rising five-fold over their pre-pandemic levels, all this coupled with a recession in the UK predicted to be among the worst in the developed world.*

*As we all search for the light at the end of the tunnel, we believe that in the realm of fire safety, the Fire Industry Association will continue to act on behalf of its members and the wider sector in guiding and supporting its practitioners towards a brighter future. Indeed, we remain proud of the work delivered by the FIA through its Secretariat based in Hampton and the many volunteers drawn from the FIA membership that give their valuable time in support of our aims through their participation on the Board and in our numerous Councils, Working Groups and Special Interest Groups. It is as a direct result of this outstanding commitment that enables us the representative body across the various sub-sectors of the industry to respond pro-actively to the key issues facing us today and tomorrow.*



*Each year that passes at the FIA is busier than the one before and we have responded with a realignment of the business, notably the appointment of Adam Richardson as General Manager to assist me with day-to-day issues and augment the support to the FIA Team. In addition, due to continuous growth, we are currently recruiting four new personnel comprising a Content Writer, Technical Officer and Membership and Training Assistants. In addition to this expansion of the Secretariat, we have realised the aim of creating a Northern hub for the FIA with the purchase of a property in Northwich in Cheshire that will act as an office and training and event location and having sufficient floor space to provide a 'Centre of Excellence' demonstration facility that will showcase our members' products and systems. Other major advances include the much-needed modernisation of our Articles and Memorandum of Association and the establishment of FIA Cyprus as an FIA-branded but largely autonomous operation that can be geo-cloned in other overseas territories.*

*While the Grenfell Tower tragedy that claimed 72 lives took place now over five years ago, it is after the lengthy and painstaking Public Inquiry that government is implementing most of its recommendations, with changes to existing laws and regulations as well as the creation of new legislation designed to improve fire safety in this country.*

*As well as engaging with government at its most senior levels and with Civil Servants, notably in the Home Office and DLUHC, and other stakeholders. Our technical team, Councils and Working Groups continue to provide the best advice and support in shaping the post-Grenfell future of UK fire safety. The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 published in May this year is the latest piece of legislation to emerge and requires Responsible Persons for high rise residential buildings to provide information to the Fire and Rescue Services to assist them in providing an effective operational response to any fire incident. Also requiring fire safety instructions and fire door information to be made known to the residents, the regulations will come into force in England in January 2023.*

*The Code of Practice that the FIA produced in collaboration with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) on Premises Information Boxes now becomes a key component of this new legislation as these boxes must be installed and maintained for high rise buildings over 18 m in height and feature building plans and building floor plans.*

*There are also changes afoot in the Fire and Rescue sector with comprehensive Fire and Rescue Services reforms set out in the government's Fire Services Reform White Paper and which resulted in a consultation to which the FIA responded. At the heart of this are proposals to deliver increased public safety by improving the professionalism of the Services through modern workforce practices and potentially establishing a College of Fire and Rescue. There is also a drive for improved accountability through the transfer of fire governance to a single elected individual, overseeing delivery by operationally independent Chief Fire Officers.*

*Brexit continues to impose complex challenges across all industries in the UK in terms of skills shortages, import and export issues, and concerns in relation to regulations and Standards as they apply to our sector. The single most prevalent concern of the majority of our members was the imposition of the UKCA Mark and which led to the FIA being in constant communication with government in highlighting the massive impact this would have given the initially stringent timescale for compliance. This would affect not just the fire protection industry but also the many thousands of business owners through the country that require compliant products and systems in order to remain open.*

*This extensive lobbying for an increased transition period has proved successful and has resulted in a significant extension being granted for UK products to continue to use the EU CE Mark until the end of 2025, offering a much-needed breathing space to enable compliance.*

*Brexit issues remain a feature of the Export Council agenda and activities, with the experiences of members articulated to DIT UK Defence and Security through our key contacts there and via its Security Exports Steering Group of which we are an active member. Whatever your views on the UK's exit from the EU, the figures show that while our exports globally have been depressed by world economic conditions, those to the EU have fallen by far greater than those to the rest of the world.*

*We maintain a healthy focus on training having recently increased the number of training courses available for fire practitioners as part of our commitment to growing the professionalism of what is a life safety industry. Having acted immediately during the onset of the pandemic to move to online training during the height of the restrictions, we have emerged over the last year with a hybrid offering of virtual and traditional classroom training. In doing so, we have continued to meet the needs of our fire professionals and their clear pursuit of continuous improvement. In fact, our training throughput has been genuinely astonishing,*



*with an approximately 50/50 split in terms of on-line and classroom instruction. Over the last year, 994 delegates commenced their journey towards the Fundamentals qualification with the great majority having taken the Fundamentals exam. Similarly, 415 people embarked upon an advanced qualification and 454 took one or more of the Advanced qualifications. In total across our training offer, 411 courses were held throughout the UK, serving almost 5,000 delegates. We look forward to maintaining this trajectory and are in the process of further increasing our folio of training courses to meet the demands of the industry as they evolve now and into the future.*

*In these difficult times, the FIA continues to buck the general trend of stagnating trade association membership numbers with further impressive growth over the past twelve months and which resulted just after last year's AGM in the announcement that the FIA had reached the milestone of 1,000 members. It's worth noting that companies are not indiscriminate additions to the FIA fold, they must demonstrate third party certification where appropriate and hence membership of the FIA serves as a benchmark of competency and best practice within the industry. It also makes an important statement within and beyond the sector in growing our collective voice and our ability to effect change in the fire industry for the benefit of everyone involved.*

*The FIA's Marketing activities continue to provide a host of information to our members and the wider industry through our web site, our fortnightly Focus e-zine and via our social media outlets. Importantly, these mechanisms allow us to take the views of our membership on key issues outside of our formal committee structure and thereby better represent the industry in our external liaison work and project-related activities. Focus goes to over 6,000 subscribers, we have over 7,000 Twitter followers and the FIA LinkedIn account has more than 34,000 followers.*

*On the subject of our communications strategy, we are in the latter stages of producing a new website that takes us onto the modern age and which, with links to our internal database, will automate many of our transaction processes to the benefit of both the FIA Secretariat and our customers.*

*Recognising the wider global issues of connectivity including the development of smart cities, the Internet of Things (IoT) and what is termed the 'golden thread of information', a vibrant and well-informed IoT Forum has been active through this year with the aim of determining how the fire industry can meet the challenges of the new age of real time exchanges of information. In addition, the ECHO project in*

*conjunction with the BSIA and FSA at the ECA continues its work in bringing the benefits of ECHO to the fire industry. Also of global importance are the issues of environment and sustainability and the FIA has convened an Environmental Strategy Forum again to address this vital matter as it applies to our industry.*

*Turning to industry events, the Lunch which follows the FIA Annual General Meeting remains a highlight of the sector calendar, with this year's gathering again at The Brewery in central London attracting another record-breaking crowd for what is both a convivial and informative afternoon.*

*We are strictly committed to expanding our events programme in order that our interaction with the membership and other stakeholders is much more than the exchange of electronic communications. The autumn 2022 FIM Expo took place at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff and as always, gave delegates the opportunity to benefit from free CPD sessions while enhancing their knowledge and skills needed to deliver a professional service. Further FIM Expo events are already being planned for 2023 in collaboration with our members.*

*For the first time in a number of years, the FIA hosted a full day conference coincident with FIM Expo in Cardiff and entitled 'In a World Post the Grenfell Tower Tragedy – What has Changed?' This enabled us to highlight the developments made in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy.*

*We also piloted a member-led event on fire safety in schools, attracting a diverse audience ranging from school decision makers and end users to service and maintenance companies. It proved a notable success and will be rolled out to the regions in 2023 with four further events to take place in Glasgow, Manchester, Belfast and Cardiff.*

*We will also be delivering, jointly with BAFSA, a series of CPD and networking Extinguishing events throughout the coming year.*

*Any reference to events would not be complete without noting the highly successful return of Informa's International Firex in May 2022 and which is to take place again at the ExCeL in London over 16th-18th May in 2023. The FIA will, as ever, have a substantive presence, our Networking Lounge offering a busy focal point for business and social conversation.*

*Finally, but by no means least, we make reference to the incredible industry response to the Illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces which began in February 2022. The FIA's immediate reaction was to show*

*absolute solidarity with the government and people of Ukraine while urging members to comply with government guidelines in respect of severing any links with any Russian-owned businesses across their supply chains and routes to market.*

*What followed was a heartening collaboration by the whole of the fire industry to support the deployment of practical assistance through Fire Aid, the FIA's nominated charity partner for the last two years. Fire Aid is led by Claire Hoyland, their Director in charge of day-to-day operations, and we nominated Sarah Adamson, a member of the FIA's Fire and Rescue Equipment and Services Council and Vice-Chair of the Export Council, as our single point of contact to provide continuity. This alliance has proved to be superbly efficient and both have put in huge amounts of work over many months to deliver a programme of three convoys, resulting in donations of over 10,000 items of equipment including fire engines, Personal Protective Equipment and mass decontamination equipment. We thank all those involved in this project, especially the other trade associations that have supported the FIA, our members that have contributed equipment and services, and the Fire and Rescue Services through logistical support and of course those that so generously donated individually to this outstanding cause. Be assured that this is making a tangible contribution to Ukraine's fire-fighting capability during their struggle.*

*Work is already under way in defining a permanent mechanism for responses not just to war events but to wider humanitarian disasters, enabling us to build on our experiences within a viable framework not just domestically but with other world partners.*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ian Hume". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'I'.



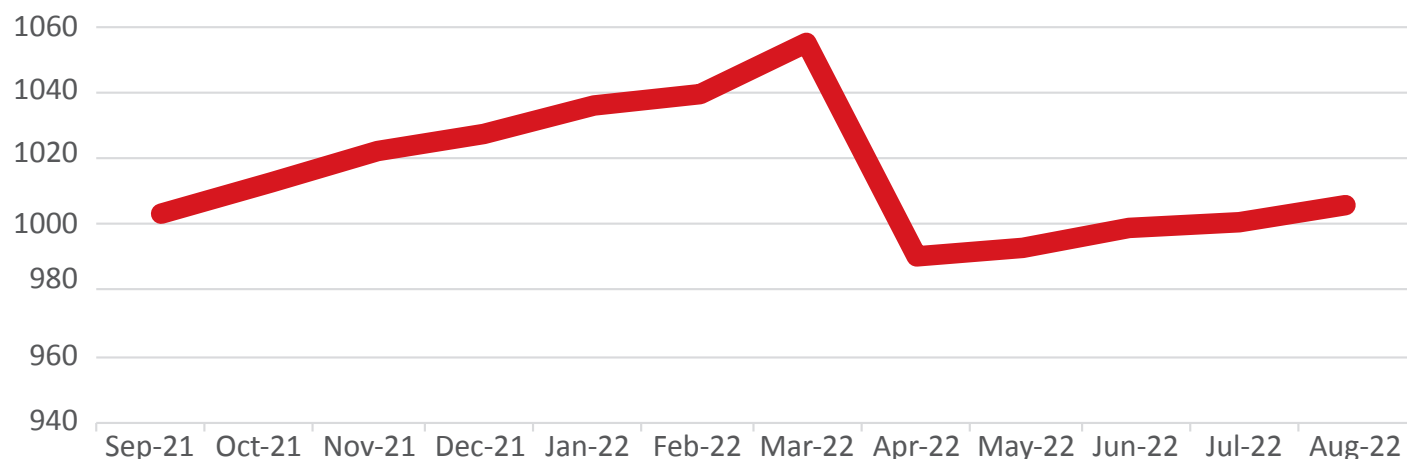
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# Membership

## Membership Growth

Within the last 12 months the FIA continues to build on the previous year by maintaining a steady rate of growth month on month. In the last year 110 companies have come into membership. This is 30% down on the previous year however, that was a record-breaking period which saw 161 companies join the membership. One of the reasons for this slow-down in growth can be attributed to the growing number of mergers and acquisitions we are seeing both within the membership and industry at large. More concerning than this is the large increase in companies either going into administration or cancelling membership as part of routine cost cutting exercising as companies seek to focus on their core offering. During the last 12 months 84 companies left membership almost exclusively for the 2 reasons mentioned above, however we are starting to see a number of those back in a financial position to re-instate their membership. This means we are left with a net gain during this period of 26 new members which equates to an overall growth of 2.6%.



*Total Members Sep-21 – Aug-22*



## Membership Benefits

This year has seen a continual focus on improving the portfolio of third-party benefits available to FIA members. As a member you have access to discounted rates for the services that our partner providers offer. This year has seen us add to already existing third-party membership benefits including HR, Recruitment and Insurance.



### **Fire Safety Solicitor – Warren Spencer & Blackhurst Budd Solicitors**

Warren Spencer is one of the country's leading fire safety lawyers. He has prosecuted and defended over 200 cases under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order and is able to offer impartial professional expert legal advice in all aspects of fire safety enforcement. This service offers members a review of your current terms and consultation as well as bespoke terms and conditions, and corresponding purchase order documentation.



### **Leasing Services – Complete Leasing Solutions**

They offer a lease option to our member's customers as our fully authorised finance partner. CLS operates on a national level and have a number of quoting tools in place to ensure that offering finance to customers is simple and effective.



## Membership Benefits (cont.)



### Trusted Insurance Advisors – Consort

A business insurance programme designed to help companies manage their exposure and liabilities in relation to fire risk. Consort's ability to identify specific insurance needs, unique methodologies and strategic placement approach, means that with Consort you can be confident that your insurance programme will be perfectly aligned to your business needs. They offer a highly personal service where accuracy and accountability is at the heart of everything they do.



### Employment Law, HR and Health & Safety Services – Croner

Croner have over 80 years of experience in HR, employment law, and safety matters. Through FIA membership, you have free and instant access to their dedicated advice line. From legislation changes to impact the fire industry, to choosing and following the best process to suit your business, their specialist team will provide the right guidance for the best possible outcome.



## Membership Benefits (cont.)



### HSS Training

HSS Training offer over 200 industry-recognised training courses that are professionally delivered via 60 qualified trainers to individuals and organisations throughout the UK and Ireland. Course categories include Workplace Safety, Working at Height, Health & Safety, Rail, Passport Schemes, Professional Development and E-Learning. We take the advice and support of relevant external organisations wherever we may need it and are accredited with OHSAS18001, Safe-HIRE and ISO 9000 certification.



### R&D Tax Credit Service – Leyton

This allows companies to reduce their corporate tax bill or receive a tax refund based on a proportion of their R&D expenditure. The scheme can be used by any organisation that is liable for corporation tax in the UK and meets the necessary R&D criteria; it can even be used on unsuccessful projects.

## Membership Benefits (cont.)



### HR & Employment Law Service – LexLeyton

Their specialist lawyers work alongside you, combining industry knowledge with the pragmatic and bespoke service you should expect from a true business partner. Together, we can extend the reach, efficiency and impact of your team, giving you certainty, confidence, control, and peace of mind.



### Western Business Media

Publish leading business-to-business titles across a wide variety of UK sectors. FIA members will be offered the opportunity to receive a copy of Fire Safety Matters as an additional membership benefit. The magazine is the market leader in the fire sector and published four times per annum. It's also the only publication in the sector that can offer CPD points to readers. In addition, they will also publish an essential annual guide to the UK's fire safety sector in partnership with the FIA this will be sent to all FIA members.





## FIA's Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

To further increase the benefits available to FIA members, we took strong action at the beginning and throughout the lockdown period of COVID-19. Recognising that almost everyone was working from home, and that companies were looking for ways to use the time effectively, we released a portfolio of 1-2-hour CPD sessions online to promote the relevant standards, raise awareness of correct working procedures and provide members a valuable, easy and accessible way to upskill their employees.

### The current portfolio includes:

**BS 5839-1: 2017**  
– Commercial Fire  
Detection & Alarm  
Systems

**BS 5839-6: 2019**  
– Domestic Fire  
Detection & Alarm  
Systems

**BS 5839-9:2011**  
– Emergency Voice  
Comms Systems  
(EVCS)

**BS 7273-4: 2015**  
– Door Release  
Mechanism  
Interfaces

**BS 7273-6: 2019**  
– Ancillary Systems  
Interfaces

**BS 8629: 2019**  
– Evacuation Alert  
Systems

**BS 9997: 2019**  
– Fire Risk  
Management  
Systems

**BS 5266**  
– An introduction  
to compliant  
emergency lighting

**BS 7346-8**  
– An introduction  
to smoke control  
systems

**HTM 05-03 B**  
– Fire Detection &  
Alarm Systems in  
the NHS

**Hazardous Areas**

**Visual Alarm  
Devices**



# Compliance

Compliance was no different than other departments in the FIA, in the sense that, the last year has provided unprecedented obstacles. Consequently, we have had to be flexible and adapt to our customers changing needs and the world around us in order to turn these obstacles into opportunities. We have worked hard to ensure our Route to Certification scheme has the same high level of quality; as a result, we have used the latest technology and adapted the scheme alongside new social-distancing rules.

Since the last AGM update in 2021, the following figures are of note:

Currently there are **38 probationary members** as part of the overall membership as at **6 October 2022**.

**61 companies** have achieved **3rd Party Certification** since the last report, of which **30** were under the **Route to Certification** package.

In September 2022 we started a **partnership with BSIA** to help their security company members achieve **O 9001:2015 linked to PD 6662** and we currently have **1 company** going through this process with support from the **FIA's Compliance Manager** to achieve their security related **ISO 9001:2015** certification in the next few months.

Currently there are **20 fire industry companies** on the **RTC package**, to **achieve certification** over the next **6 to 12 months** and **1 security industry company**, looking to do the same.

We continue to work with **BSi, NSI & SSAIB** (and Certsure on occasion), on achieving the various certifications, of which all have been **BAFE certifications** to date.



# Training

Throughout 2022 we have continued to recover from the organisational set back of Covid 19. While restrictions enforced by the pandemic have eased over the last 12 months, we are still adjusting to a 'new normal' and continuing alongside Covid 19. As a result, we at the FIA have continued to evolve training in order to meet the needs of a diverse range of companies and their delegates, both members and non-members. We are still faced with administrative challenges induced by the continued existence of Covid 19. At times it has been difficult to keep some courses running with late dropouts. In order to overcome this the FIA continued to be as flexible as we possibly could and thank everyone for their patience through this time. We are delighted to say, we only lost two and half days from trainer absences due to covid throughout the pandemic.

Following on from last year's success, we continued to run a mixture of online and classroom-based courses, giving our delegates maximum opportunity to complete their training in whatever environment they feel most comfortable. Online training has now become the go to from a number of companies.

The new normal for FIA Training has seen us implement a selection for both online and in classroom training options. 24 out of our 28 courses (86%) are available online as we continue to migrate our portfolio onto an online platform. We continue to develop current courses in addition to looking at new potential partners to work with in widening the range of courses we offer to the industry. The ongoing challenge for the FIA will always be developing and improving the training we offer to the industry. Additionally, 2022 has still seen us struggle to fill courses in some regions but we continue to try and provide training across the UK and beyond.





2022 has once again seen FIA Training grow. Over the last year we have ran more courses than we did in 2021. Additionally, the last 12 months has seen over 2000 more delegates book on to FIA Training than over the previous period. Adding to this 2022 has seen more delegates start on each of the Qualification streams than in previous years. Furthermore we have also improved what we offer for dedicated online or in classroom training.

The Fundamentals Qualification has remained the main go to course for companies. We now also have the Fundamentals to Advanced course for those who want to progress from Fundamentals to the Advanced Qualifications.

Portable Fire extinguisher training and Emergency Lighting training were particularly strong performers this year and we are aiming at looking to run more of these courses in 2023 and beyond.

We continue to work closely with Firequal on the Qualifications they offer and hope to roll out more in the coming year.

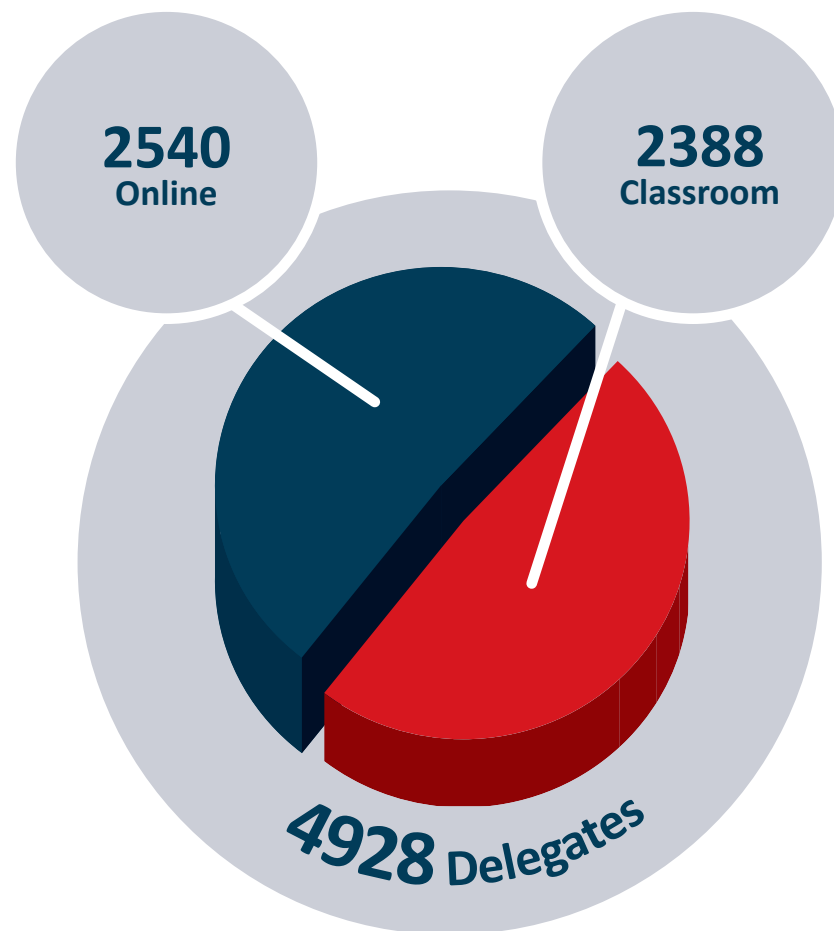
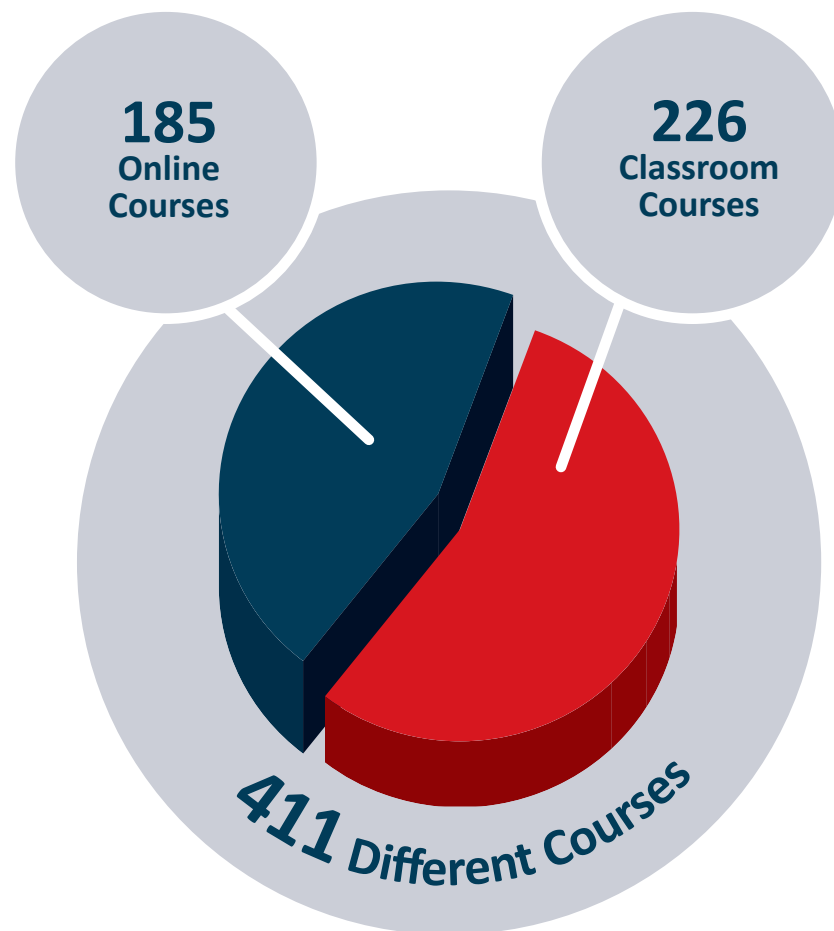
As with the previous pandemic years, the priority of the FIA training department has been to make sure there was no disruption to delegates pathway through their qualification process, this has continued to be a great success.

2023 will continue to challenge FIA training as we strive to grow and develop, giving the fire industry the education it requires. FIA Training is determined to keep its place as the leading training provider in the industry while also looking to add more courses, improve its portfolio and continue to educate and enhance the knowledge and skill of all fire professionals we interact with at the Fire Industry Association.



## The statistics over the last 12 months

September 1st 2021 – August 31st 2022

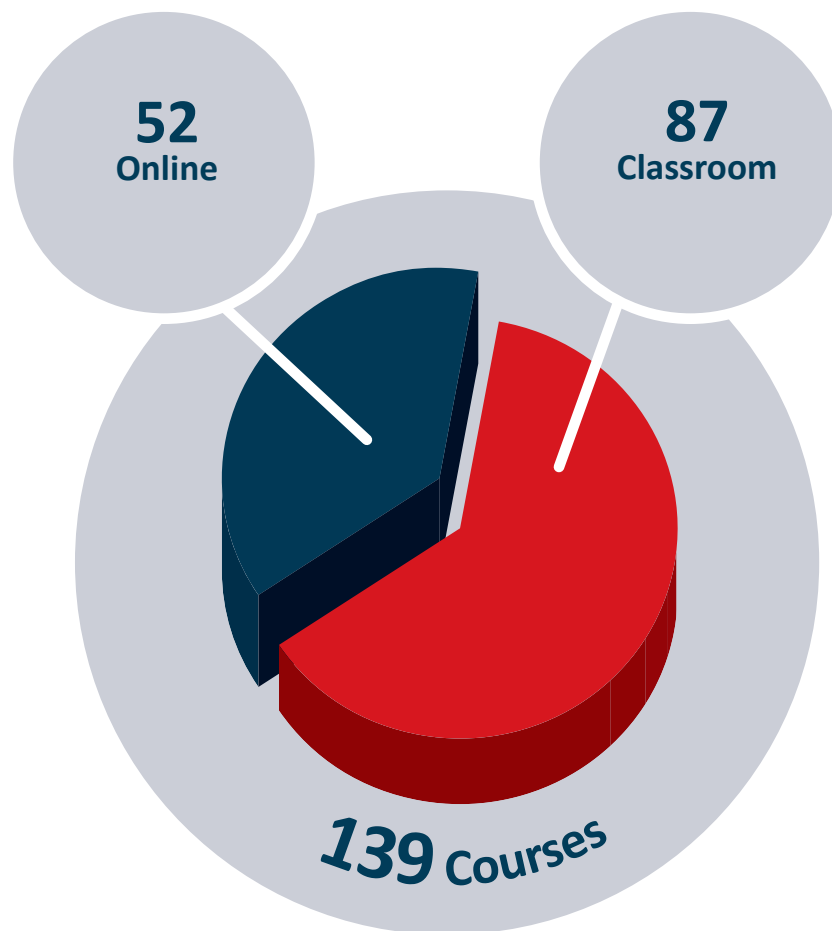


**51% of all delegates in the last 12 months  
took their training online**

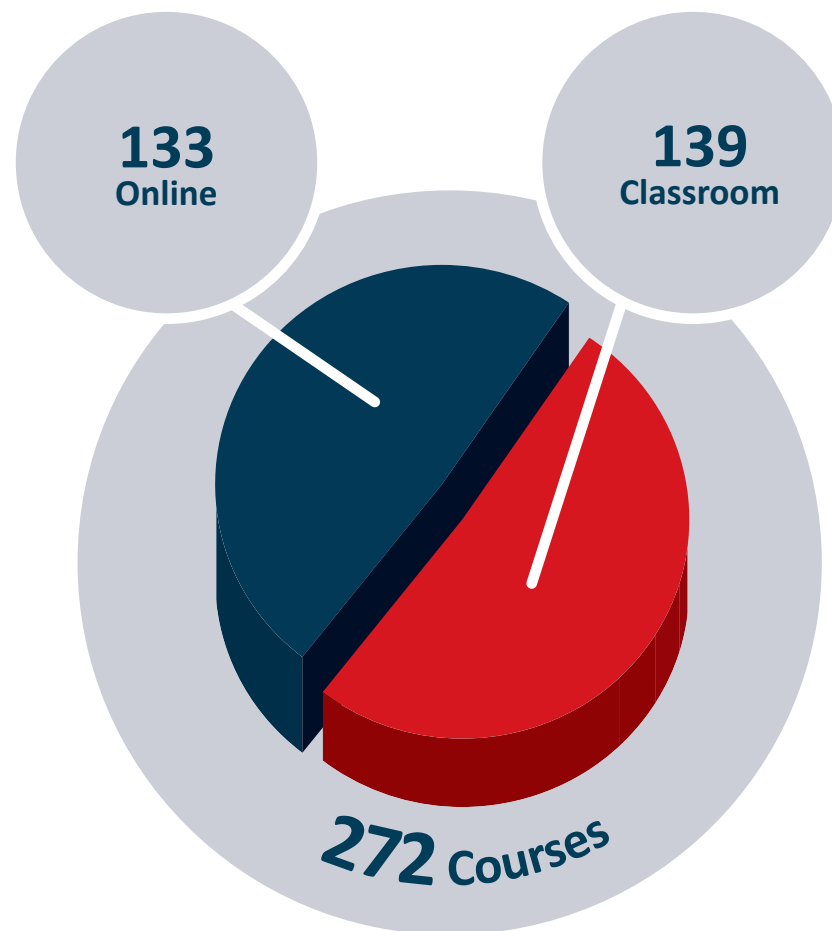


## The statistics over the last 12 months

September 1st 2021 – August 31st 2022



**Non-Qualification Courses**

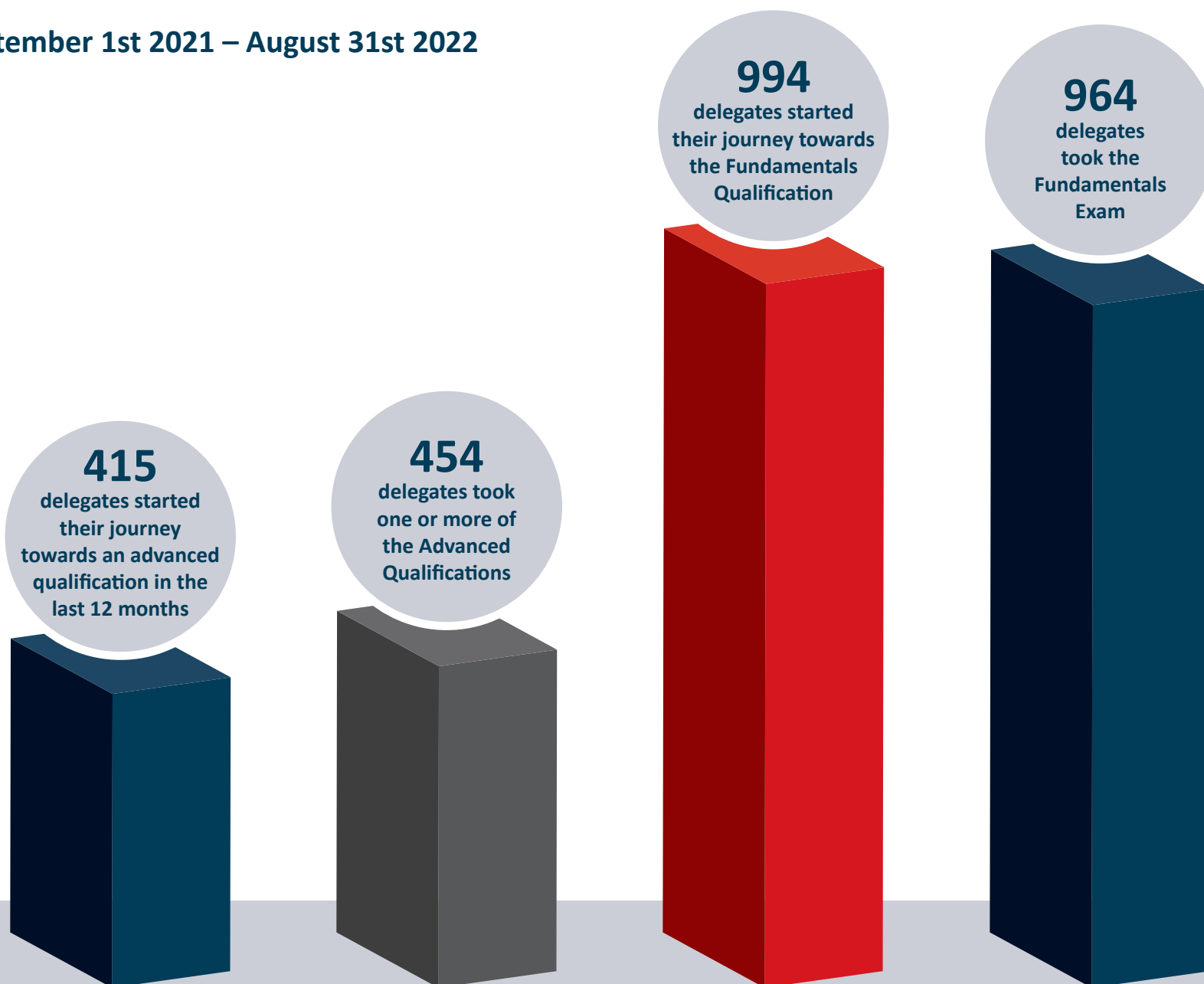


**FD&A Qualification Courses**



## The statistics over the last 12 months

September 1st 2021 – August 31st 2022







# Marketing

In 2022 the FIA Marketing team concentrated on connecting and responding to the industry's needs. We have continued to grow our position as the top provider of news for the fire industry through our consistent content creation; as well as, by providing timely updates on key issues to ensure that our industry is informed with the latest government guidance, regulatory amendments, and breaking news. We have worked hard to ensure that the FIA Marketing team are ensuring that the right people are hearing the right messages at the right times – we will continue to do this.





# FIA Website and Systems

Throughout 2022, we have worked with a variety of experts to make progress on the audit of our digital systems that took place in 2021. We have evaluated the effectiveness of our current systems and planned for a future where we can better serve our members and the wider industry. The main goal moving forward is to leverage the available technology to automate our processes and improve our efficiency – in doing so this will allow us to fulfil more of our organisational objectives.

We will be implementing a new and improved finance system that will automate countless hours of manual work over a year. In addition, we will be changing our marketing system to one that fits seamlessly with our CRM allowing us to communicate with our members in a intuitive, accurate and efficient way.

Systems aside, our website has continued to experience good levels of traffic seeking a mixture of clarifications of the current government regulations or our industry leading training or tailored news pieces for the fire industry.





## E-Communication

Every year, we look to improve the quality of the content in our E-communication and the format of the content to make it as user friendly and engaging as possible. Throughout 2022, Fireside Chats, which highlight the variety of roles and people within the industry to others currently in the industry, have been continued as the headline piece for each Focus newsletter we publish.

Both members and the wider fire industry continue to find our Fireside Chats highly engaging. With our Training email we have continued with the tried and tested format that gives it a similar feel to the layout of the training section of our website, this continues to give our readers more familiarity with the email and has been shown in the increase engagement compared to its previous format. Many of you will be aware that we created the Monthly Membership Update 2020 which has provides our members with exclusive member benefits, key industry news and highlights to our members the ample opportunities they can take advantage of.

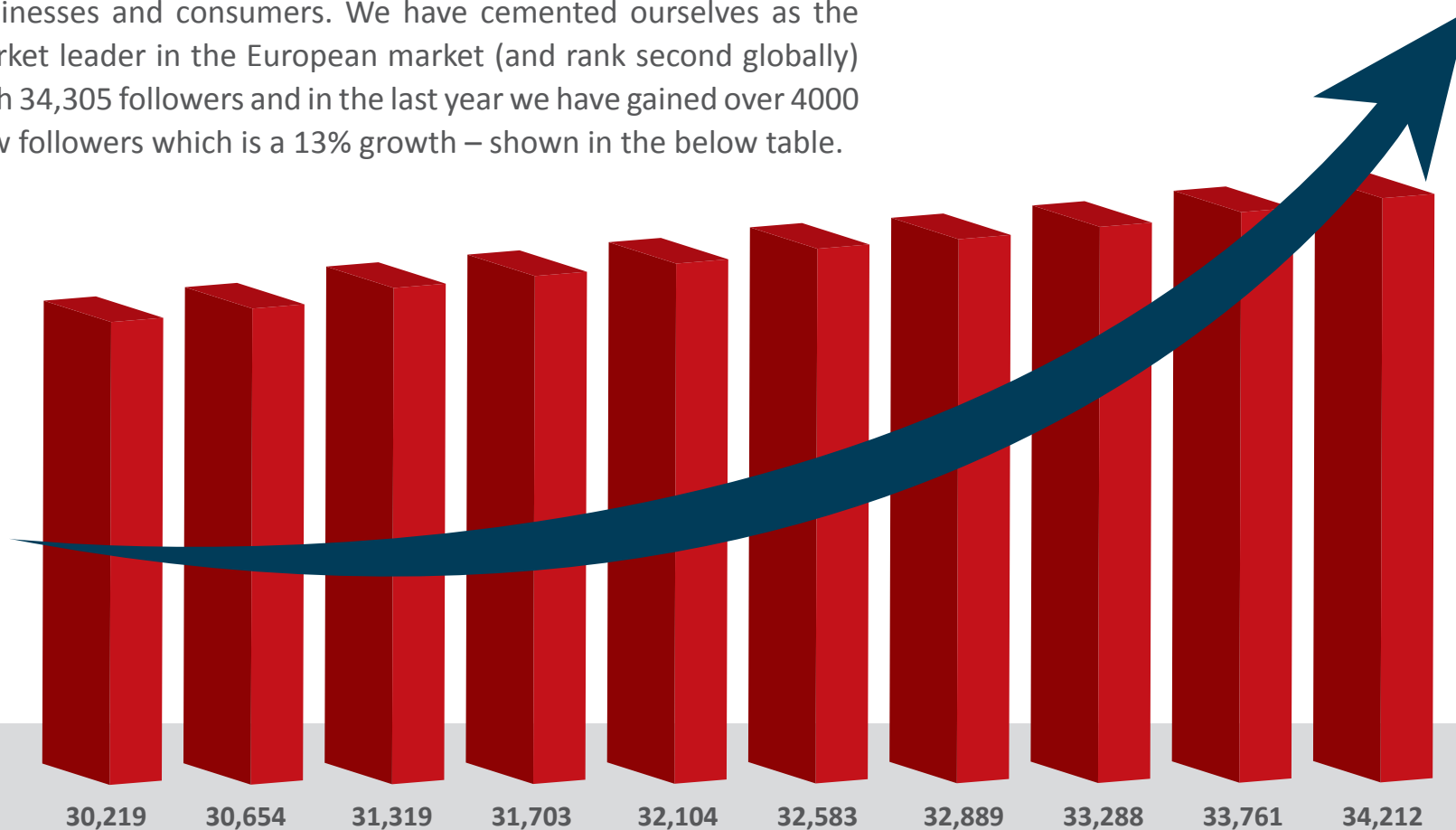


## Social Media

The FIA has once again continued to see growth in followers across all FIA social media platforms the last year. LinkedIn has remained as our strongest and most engaged with platform, it is now arguably the most important channel outside of our website and e-communication – due to its ability to communicate with both businesses and consumers. We have cemented ourselves as the market leader in the European market (and rank second globally) with 34,305 followers and in the last year we have gained over 4000 new followers which is a 13% growth – shown in the below table.



### LinkedIn Company Page Followers 2021-2022







## Public Relations

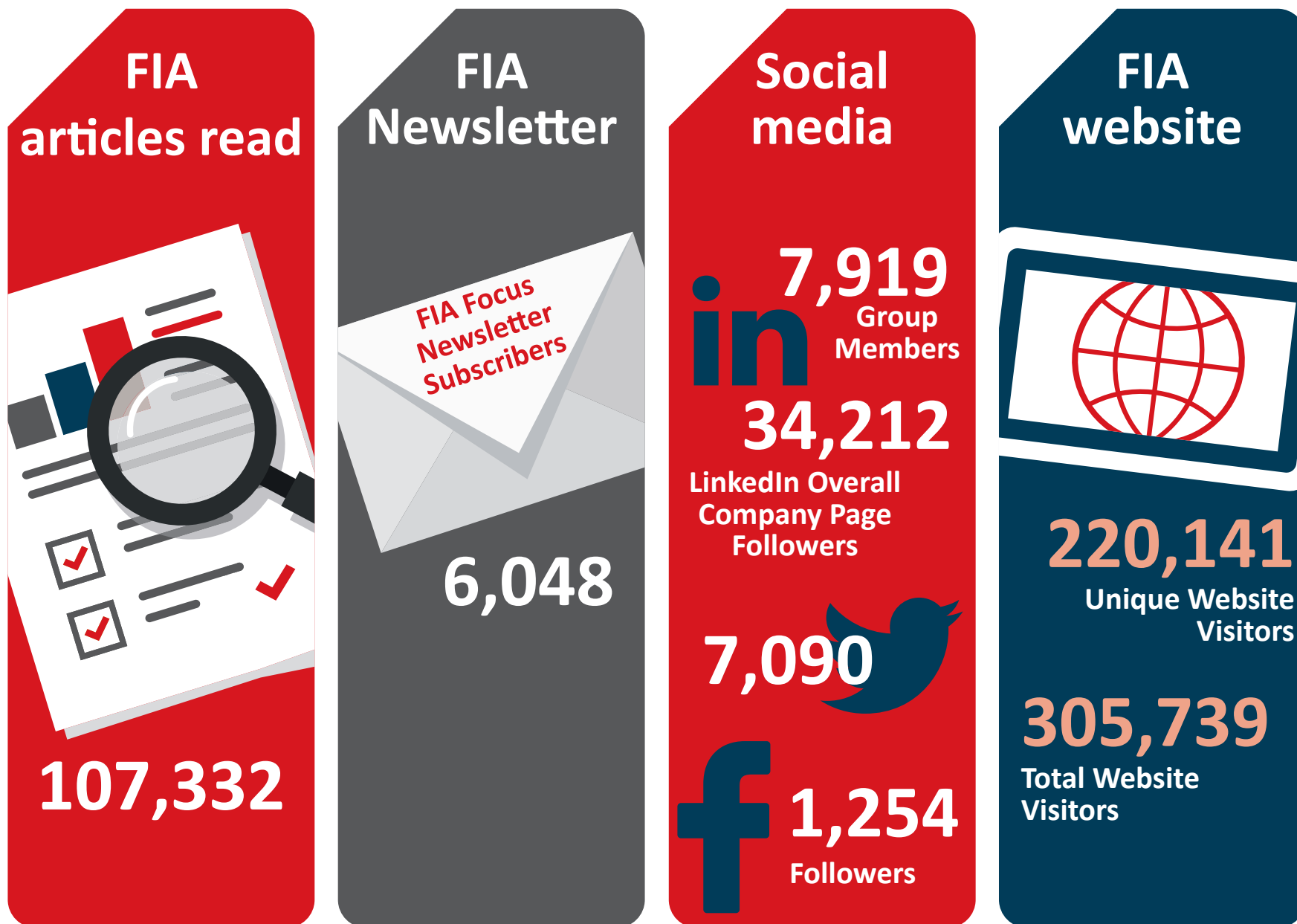
Our CEO has had another busy year ensuring the FIA membership is well represented in as many relevant areas as possible. With the pandemic, UKCA Markings created by BREXIT and the finalisation of a number of pieces of important Government legislative changes, this liaison work has been undertaken with Home Office, DLUHC, All Party Parliamentary Groups, Competency Steering Groups, BAFE, FireQual, Fire Sector Federation, NFCC and many more.

The pandemic, although officially finished, continues to create several challenges for the FIA and our members. There is a real divide between those that want have meetings face to face and those that want to do everything online which can be seen as a balance of quantity v quality. We are all now well versed in engaging online and this has worked well for us (training, CPD, impromptu meetings etc), but I am really enjoying getting back to meeting people face to face.

Finally, most of the liaison work with the above-mentioned bodies has been associated with the need for change following the Grenfell Tower reports (e.g., Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order, Fire Safety Bill, Building Safety Bill etc). HSE are taking a more dominant position, so we will need to get a better understanding of their responsibilities and requirements. And of course – another Fire Minister (we are currently on our 3rd this year alone!) that we need to get to know.



## Customer Engagement





# Events

2022 has seen us return to a more sociable world post pandemic. Events over the last year have greatly benefited from this with cancellations and postponements becoming a thing of the past. This year's FIM Expo and FIA Conference took place in September. Hosting our first conference in several years proved to be a great success with presentations from leading industry figures such as Huw Jakeway, Chief Fire Officer for South Wales. Also, FIREX International took place in May, the first of these events since 2019. It was fantastic to see so many faces, both new and old. Our iconic 2022 AGM & Annual Lunch is scheduled to take place on the 10th of November 2022 and we are looking forward to providing our members and their guests with a memorable experience and opportunity for unrivalled networking with all the fire industry's leading figures.



# Research

As with every October, we released our Market Conditions Survey, where we found that has found that our resilient industry has continued to not only overcome the challenges, we have faced but grown and developed in a sustainable fashion. Once again, despite several challenges, the fire industry has continued to flourish.





# EWS1

The tragedy of the Grenfell Tower fire which took place now over five years ago and which resulted in 72 deaths exposed the deficiencies of policies stretching back over decades affecting housing, local government and the Fire and Rescue Services. Cuts in public services, deregulation and other structural changes precipitated a culture in which fire policy and fire safety had fallen below the necessary standards. The Hackitt Report that followed offered a damning assessment of the fire safety regime as it was, stating that roles and responsibilities for building safety were unclear, regulations and guidance were ‘ambiguous and inconsistent’, compliance processes were ‘weak and complex’ and that the competence of people engaged in the system was ‘patchy’.

The severity and lethality of the fire at Grenfell Tower was huge largely to the external cladding on the building which caused rapid spread of the fire from its source on the 4th floor of the 24-storey block in West London. Other elements of the design and construction of the external walls also contributed including the presence of other combustible materials surrounding the windows and the absence of suitably located and installed cavity barriers. What is more, it is but one example of many similar incidents in the UK and globally.

It became clear that many other residential buildings in the UK also featured external wall materials that may promote fire spread and that these must urgently be identified and remedial action taken. Such buildings would include not only flats but student accommodation, dormitories, assisted living, care homes and Houses in Multiple Occupation. Predictably, it has also precipitated grave concern among property owners and potential buyers, with many owners unable to sell their properties subject to determining whether their home is able to go on the market.



EWS-1 forms [EWS standing for External Wall Survey] were developed by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors [RICS], UK Finance and the Building Societies Association as a means of enabling competent fire experts to record whether buildings are fire safe in respect of their external cladding and, if not, that remedial work must be carried out. The provision of these forms has proved successful in creating clear and consistent documentation in this respect and, in consequence, supports the buying, selling and remortgaging of flats in these properties.

There remained, however, some key issues to be resolved in order to create a fully reliable and accessible process for the upload and retrieval of these forms. The FIA stepped in to meet this requirement and, in consultation with MHCLG and in collaboration with RICS and other stakeholders including lenders and insurers, developed a unique portal that since November 2020 provides a central readily-accessible location for EWS-1 forms and, for the first time, the ability for suitably qualified experts to complete the forms on-line.

Signatories to EWS-1 forms must first register to submit or complete forms on-line and provide evidence of applicable professional memberships and qualifications prior to the application being approved. Those signing forms to Option A [where external wall materials are unlikely to support combustion] would normally be full members of professional membership organisations such as RICS and the IFE; a full list of approved organisations is featured on the Portal. Those able to sign to Options A and B [the latter indicating that combustible materials are present] would require a higher level of relevant competence and would be Chartered Engineers with the IFE or hold an equivalent designation.



Buyers, sellers, lenders, insurers and others having an interest in particular properties can search for buildings by postcode or building name, after which the form, if on the Portal, will appear with its full postal address. The form can then be viewed and downloaded on entering a valid e-mail address, a requirement that enables us to contact the enquirer if a form is withdrawn or superseded in the future.

The web site is named the Building Safety Information Portal [BSIP] and may be found at [buildingsafetyportal.co.uk](https://buildingsafetyportal.co.uk), this reflecting its future potential to act as a reliable resource for a wide range of building safety documentation.

What it does hold at this time meets an increasingly urgent need for property sellers and buyers, insurers and mortgage lenders to easily access for free and in one specific location the information they need in order for transactions involving properties in residential buildings to proceed as normal post-Grenfell.

It's especially important to prevent fraudulent activity relating to EWS-1 forms which regrettably has been identified in the market and which can place lives at risk. A rigorous approach has been applied to the Portal to include manual checks at various stages of the process. Each Fire Engineer wishing to submit forms must present evidence that they are fully qualified and competent to do so and this is interrogated prior to enabling their forms to be submitted to the Portal. In addition, all existing forms and on-line submissions are subject to further checks to determine their validity before they appear as publicly-available documents.





The development of the Portal proved a significant challenge in creating an easy-to-use platform from a standing start and doing so as rapidly as possible. It has also been subject to revision since its launch to reflect recent developments based on government advice, the resulting RICS Guidance [including an evaluation of whether a building requires a full EWS analysis] and indeed the release of a revised EWS-1 form. We are also responding to a government scheme for Personal Indemnity Insurance for EWS activity and to those assessors gaining the right to engage in EWS assessments as a result of completing the RICS EWS Assessment Training Programme.

There has been a period of uncertainty in the sector as the EWS processes have evolved over the last several years. With these issues reaching resolution, however, and a period of equilibrium becoming established, we are seeing quite clearly an acceleration in usage of the BSIP is emerging across all stakeholders from buyers, sellers, EWS assessors and, of course, lenders and insurers. We certainly encourage all stakeholders and beneficiaries actively to promote and use this facility as it plays a vital role in enabling the identification of domestic buildings that are safe in respect of the fire safety of external cladding and, critically, those which are not safe and will therefore require urgent remedial action.

# FIA's Councils

Our industry-leading councils have and always will be at the very heart of the FIA and this section is clear evidence why that is the case.



# Extinguishing Council

## SIG

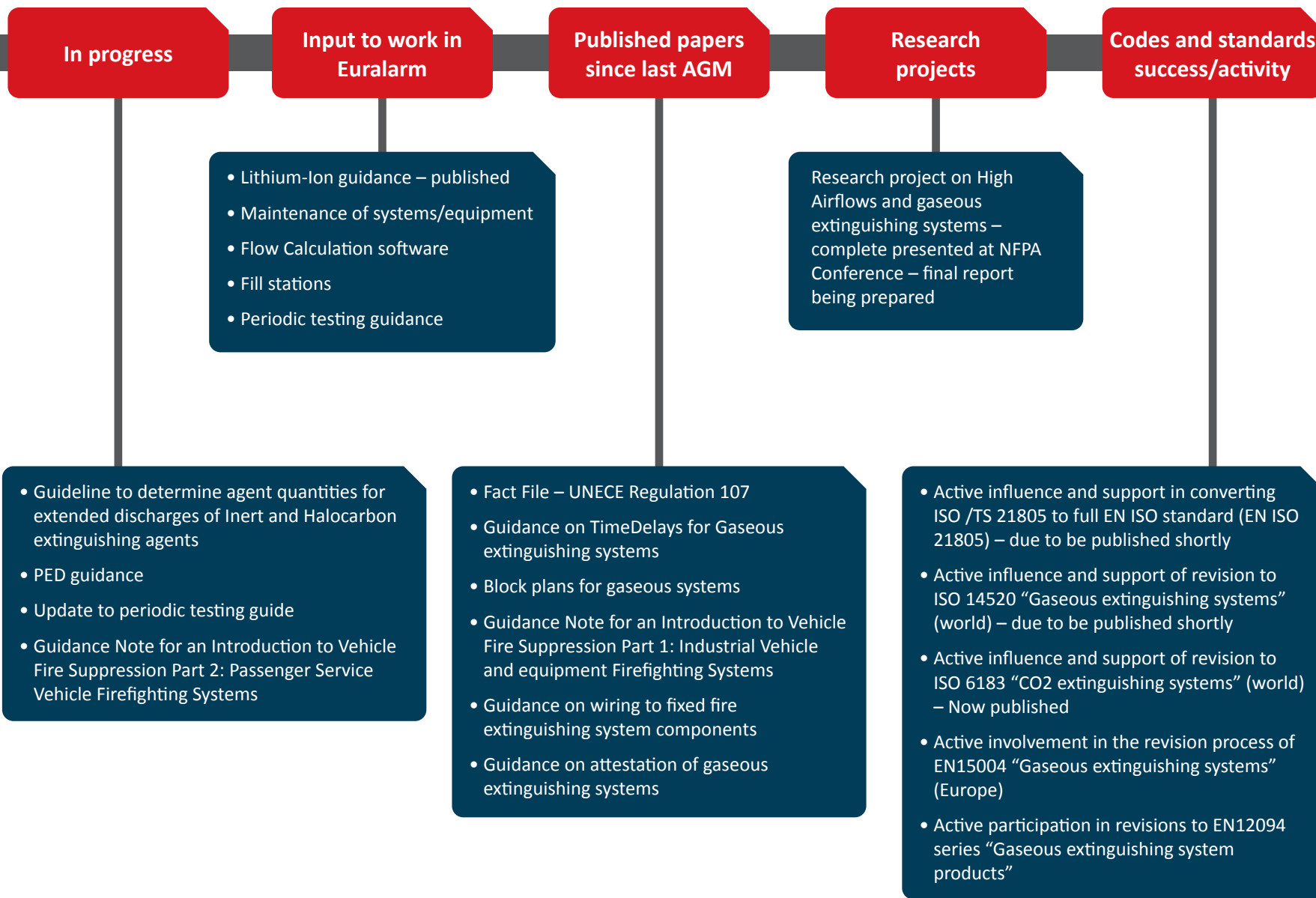
SIG on Li-ion Battery fires which is looking at drafting guidance on fire protection of batteries – almost 200 members from all areas of business/government/Universities.

### Published papers since last AGM

- Lithium ion is not D Class Blog

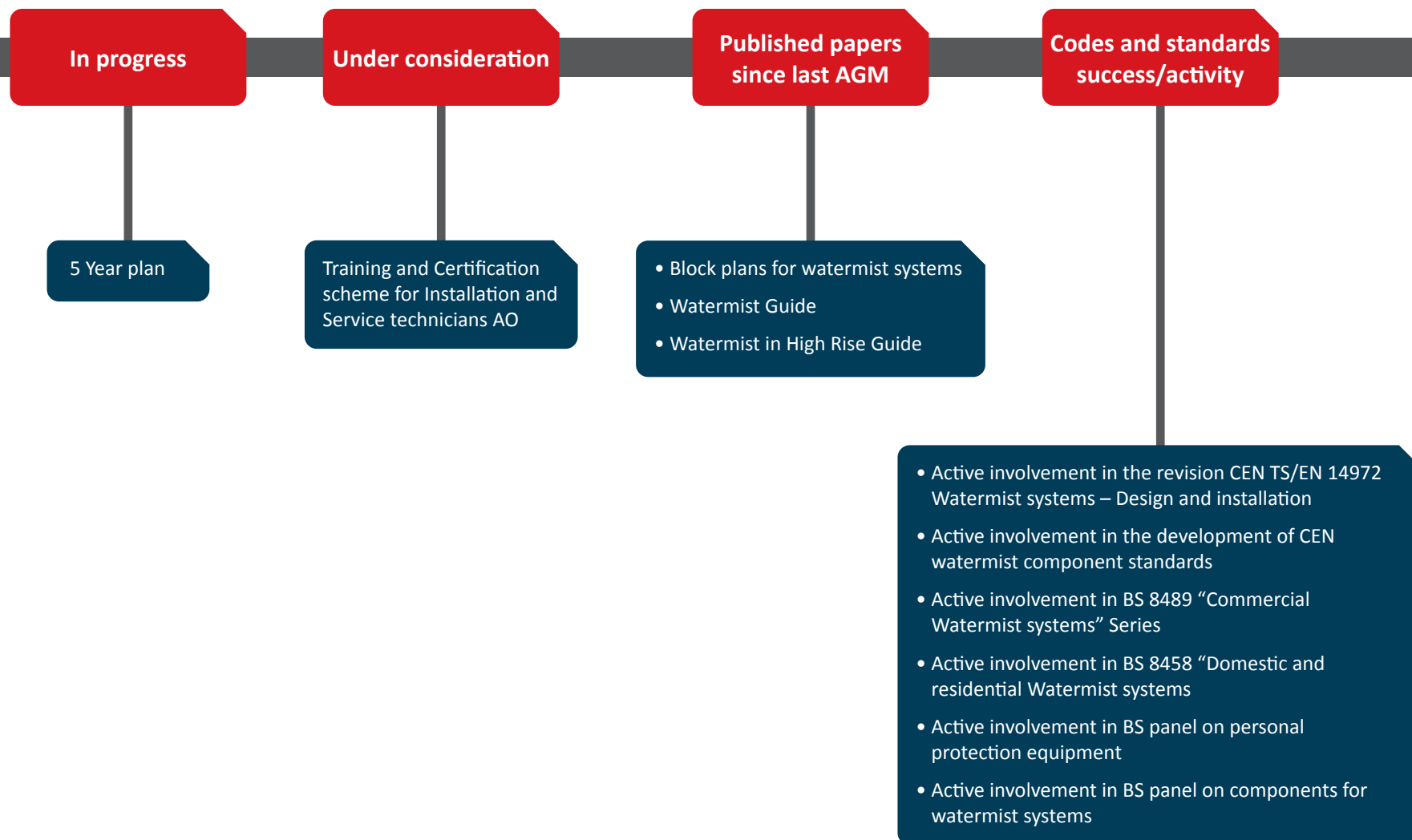
# Extinguishing Council

## Working Group Gases



# Extinguishing Council

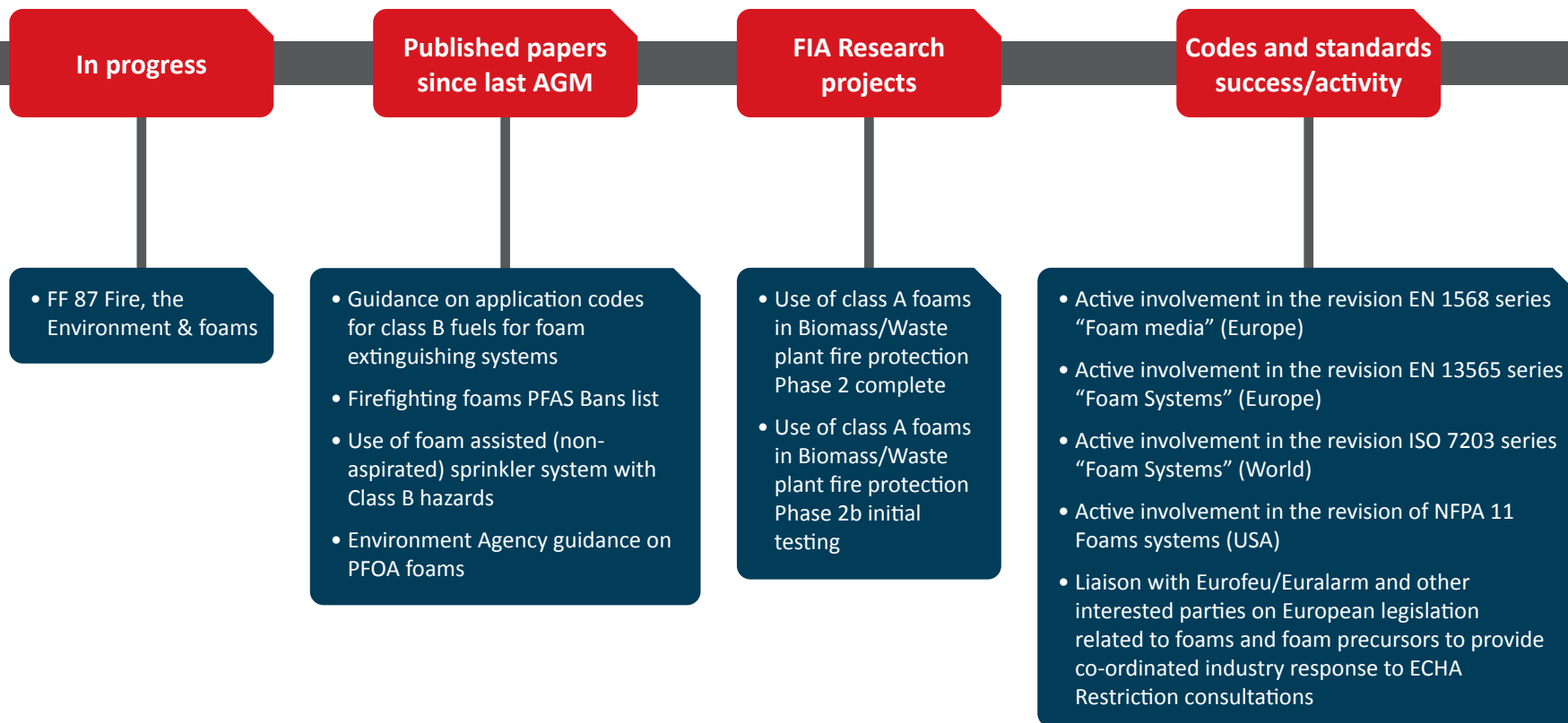
## Watermist





# Extinguishing Council

## Working Group Foam





# Extinguishing Council

## EMTC (Extinguisher Manufacturers Technical Committee)

### Codes and standards success/activity

- Input into EN 3 “Portable Fire Extinguishers” revisions
- Input into BS 6165 “small Disposable Extinguishers”
- Input into BS 7863 “Colour coding for fire Extinguishers” revision

# Fire Detection & Alarm Council

## FDWG02 – Fire Alarm Communications

### Published papers since last AGM

- Guidance on next generation networks/PSTN phase-out

### Ongoing work

- Guidance on IP connectivity and remote services
- Guidance on connection to an ARC & EN 54-21 multi path signalling
- Guidance on PD 6669
- Continued liaison with BT/Openreach
- Monitoring ECHO progress

# Fire Detection & Alarm Council

## FDWG03 – Fire Detectors

### Ongoing work

- Revision of ASD Code of Practice
- Code of Practice for VFD Systems
- Guidance on self-testing detectors

### Funded research projects

- Smoke detection where stratification is expected
- False alarm rejection

# Fire Detection & Alarm Council

## FDWG05 – Control and indicating equipment

Ongoing  
work

- Monitoring of EN 54-2 and EN 54-4
- Guidance on anti-static precautions



# Fire Detection & Alarm Council

## FDWG24 – Wireless systems

Ongoing  
work

- Monitoring & guidance on SRD frequencies allocated by ETSI
- Monitoring & guidance on EN 54-25

# Fire Detection & Alarm Council

## FDWG27 – Alarm Devices

### Published documents

- Guidance on Fire alarms for those with sensory needs

### Funded research projects

- EN 54-23 VAD effectiveness

### Ongoing work

- Revision of joint FIA/BRE CoP 0001 on VADs
- Guidance on the installation of tactile vibrating devices
- Guidance on the effectiveness of sounder frequencies

# Fire Detection & Alarm Council

## FDWG SAD (Smoke Alarm Devices)

### Published documents

- Joint guidance on fire detection in holiday caravans & park homes with the NCC
- Fact File on difference between EN 54-26 CO detectors and EN 50291 CO alarms
- Guidance document on BS 5446-4

### Ongoing work

- Guidance on the revision of EN 14604, Smoke alarm devices

# Fire Detection & Alarm Council

## ELWG – Emergency lighting

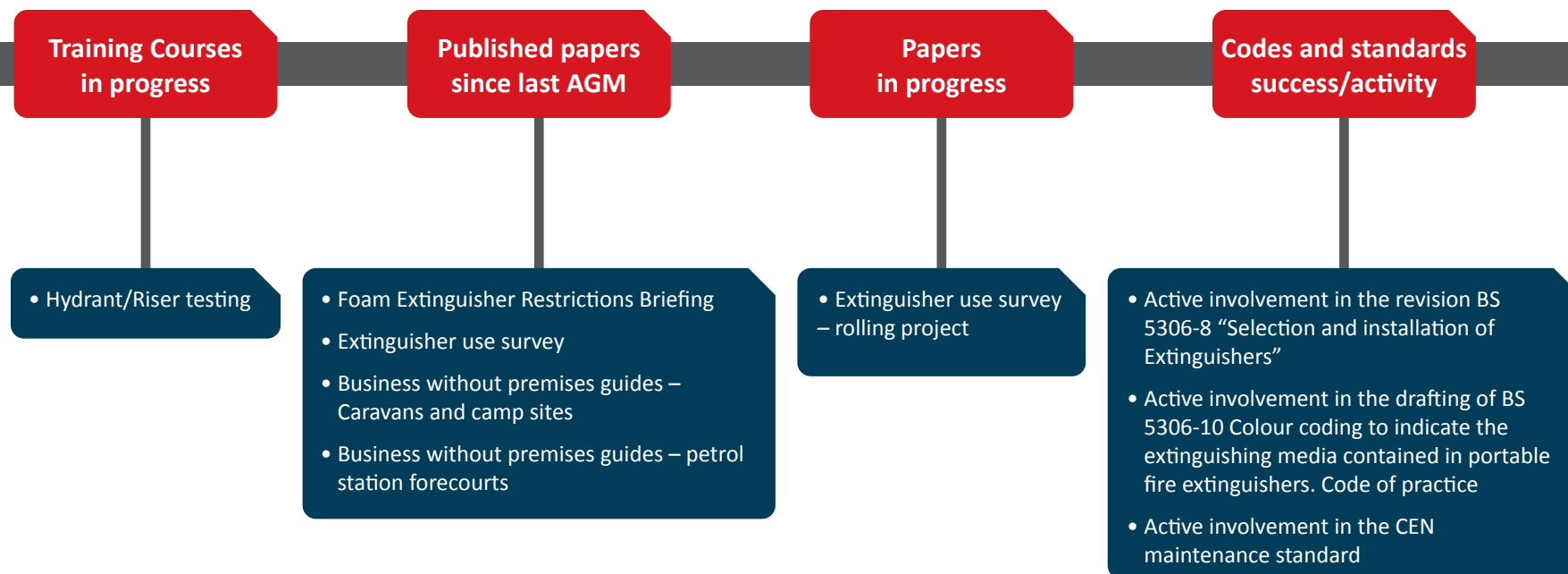
### Ongoing work

- Monitoring of British and European Standards
- Guidance/frequently asked questions for designers and maintainers



# Services Council

## PSC (Portable Servicing Committee)

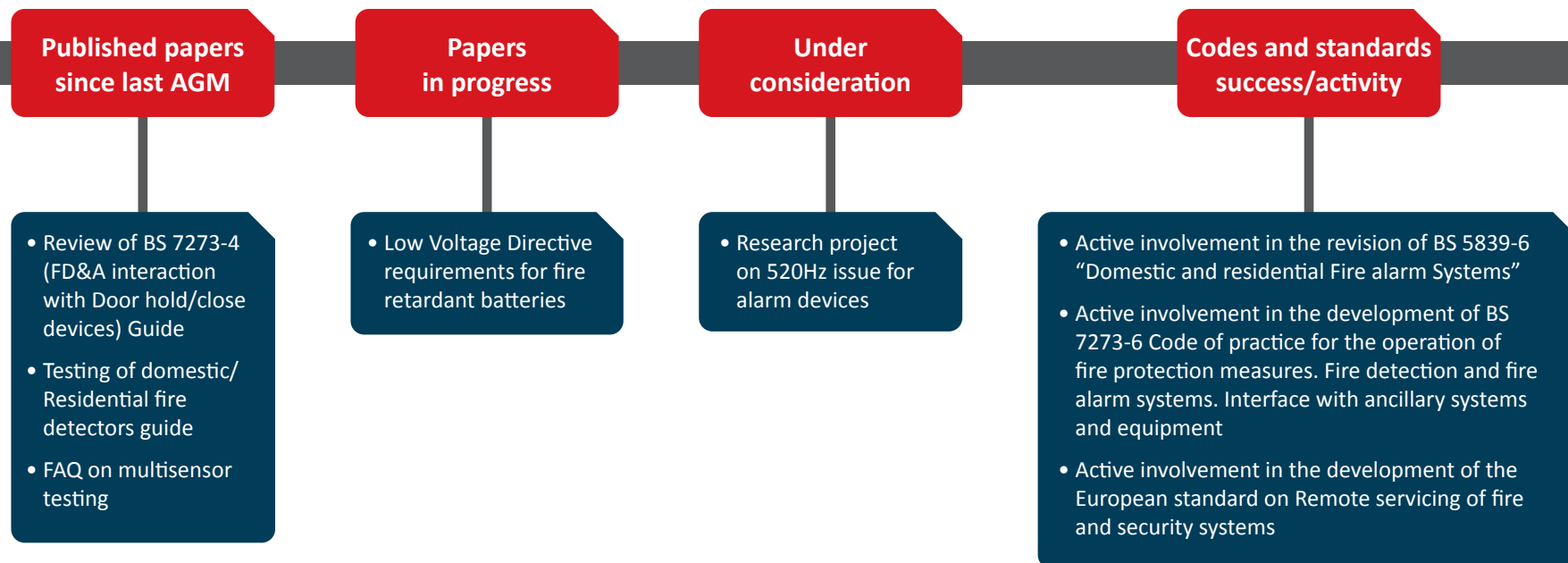


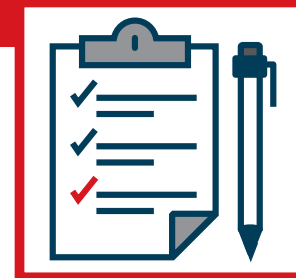




# Services Council

## I&MS (Installers & Maintainers Section)





The Fire Risk Assessment Council represents the companies that offer fire risk assessment services.

In addition, it provides guidance for product-related marketing, communications and training issues.

With The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 and implementation of The Fire Safety Act, any residential property that is not a house is now within the scope of The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The publication of the new PAS 9980 provides a clear methodology for a Fire Risk appraisal of external wall construction and cladding. While this guidance has been welcomed, it fails to address one of the main issues for fire risk assessors, that is Professional Indemnity (PI) insurance. Most insurance companies

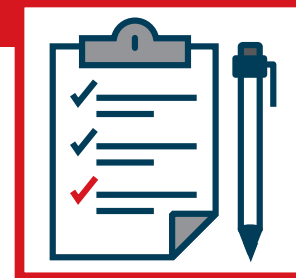


are implementing exclusions to the PI cover they offer which excludes any advice on the external wall. This should be remedied shortly, however, with the government's introduction of a PI insurance scheme on a case-by-case basis.

With the Fire Safety Act and the Fire Safety (England) Regulations now introducing the external wall construction into the risk assessment, PI exclusions in this respect have meant that assessors have been unable to offer any advice on the external wall construction of high rise blocks of flats. It's certainly impossible to determine from a simple appraisal what the composition and construction of the external wall is and what fire risk it may represent. With not all risk assessors competent or willing to carry out a Fire Risk assessment of External Wall construction and cladding, the Responsible person would need to employ a suitably qualified and insured Fire Engineer to obtain a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of the premises.

The FIA has been actively talking to the insurance industry and government on a way forward to enable fire risk assessors to have appropriate and cost-effective professional indemnity insurance to carry out fire risk assessments of residential blocks of flats. This should now shortly be remedied with the government's introduction of a PI insurance scheme that can be accessed on a case-by-case basis.

The government response to the emotive subject of Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) consultation highlights significant concerns over the proportionality, practicality,

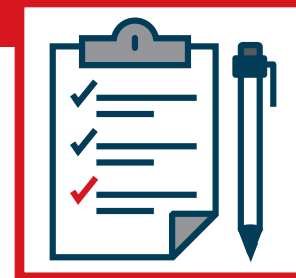


## Fire Risk Assessment Council

and the fire safety case for PEEPs in all high-rise residential buildings. To ensure the safety of disabled people in high rise residential buildings is not overlooked or forgotten, the government held another consultation on Emergency Evacuation Information Sharing (EEIS). The Fire Risk Assessment council formed a Special Interest Group, including members of the housing sector, to respond to this consultation and provide proportional practical and safe guidance to the government on the use of emergency information evacuation sharing.

One of the Grenfell Tower inquiry recommendations was the introduction of Premises Information Boxes (PIBs) which should be provided in all high-rise residential buildings. A new Code of Practice has been prepared jointly by the FIA and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) with the assistance of the other organisations listed in the Acknowledgements section of the document. The Code is intended to support new legislation and guidance to be introduced by the government in response to the recommendations in the Phase 1 report of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. The report also recommended that the contents of PIBs should include various information that will be of value to firefighters during an emergency.

The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 has renamed Premises Information Boxes to Secure Information Boxes (SIB). The recently revised Approved Document B highlights the fact that the FIA Code of Practice for the provision of SIBs in residential buildings should be used as the best practice for these items.



It is not just legislation that has been changing due to the Grenfell Tower tragedy but also Standards and Guidance documents. The Fire Risk Assessment council has always assisted in producing Standards and Guidance along with promoting their use in the industry. With the withdrawal of PAS 79-2 on issues surrounding evacuation of disabled people and PEEPs, a new British standard is being developed to replace this and our Council with others are actively involved in this.

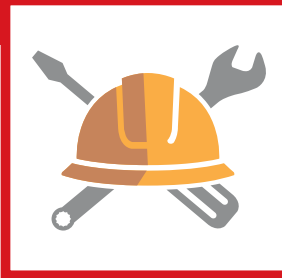
The proforma templates from both PAS 79-1 and -2 have now been published by the FIA with the permission of the copyright holder C.S. Todd & Associates who are FIA members, with the Managing Director being an FIA board member and Chair of the FIA Fire Risk Assessment Council. These templates cover the three legislative areas of Scotland, Northern Ireland and England & Wales and are freely available on the FIA website both for new risk assessments and the review of an existing risk assessment.

This Council continues its working relationship with the Industry Response Group Working Group 4 which produced a new Code of Practice for risk assessments on High Risk Residential Buildings (HRRBs). It offers a Code for industry best practice that details the defined level of competence appropriate for those fire risk assessors who are undertaking work on high risk buildings in order to satisfy the legal requirements and performance standards identified as necessary to secure safety in those buildings.

This work has also extended to helping to formulate a base competency standard for fire risk assessors which can hopefully be used by Training and Awarding Organisations to bring new people into, and upskill existing people, the fire risk assessment community.



# Fire Engineering Council



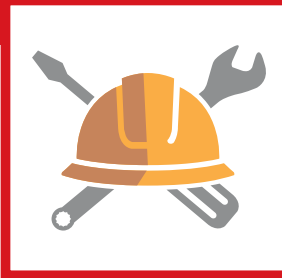
As well as representing members interests, the Fire Engineering Council monitors and influences the development of relevant standards legislation and regulation, commissions essential research and provides guidance for product related marketing communication and training issues. As you can imagine, the Council has had a busy year in response to the new legislation that has been enacted and a brand new Building Safety Regulator to interact with, bringing a complete new way of achieving approval for new developments. This is just the start of our long journey with the new Regulator in enforcing a more stringent regulatory regime, looking at the building throughout its life not just at the planning stage but during its construction and use.

Fire engineers will be one of the first people to input into the building safety case and the safety case report, to show how and why the buildings are designed and constructed to be safe and to a good standard as well as how they'll stay safe for people living in them. The safety case comprises all the information used to manage the risk of fire spread in the building with the recently released amended Approved Document B.

The changes focus on the following fire safety provisions:

- Ban of combustible materials in and on the external walls of buildings
- Consequential amendments following the laying of the Building (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022
- Updated provisions to resisting fire spread over external walls

# Fire Engineering Council



The Fire Engineering Council has updated its guidance on Regulation 7 of the Building Regulations which bans combustible materials on and under the external walls of in scope buildings.

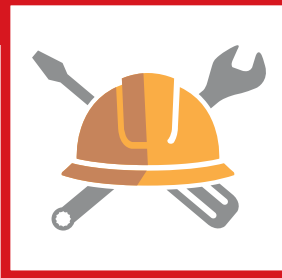
With so much legislation changing, our Council has been keeping the FIA's Fire Engineering members up to date with what's been going on in the regulatory regime. With the publication of PAS 9980 and changes made by RICS to the EWS-1 form, the external walls of residential buildings is still very much in the foreground of fire engineering work. This includes working on new developments, carrying out mitigation work to existing buildings with cladding and assessing existing buildings external wall systems using the guidance and methodology within PAS 9980.

One of the main elements of Standards work that took place this year is the revision of BS 9991 'Fire safety in the design, management and use of residential buildings – Code of Practice'. This has been a major revision of the Standard and while not yet published, the Fire Engineering Council provided commentary and comments to BSI during the draft for public comment stage.

This is a full revision of the Standard, and introduces the following principal changes:

- expansion of scope to cover residential care
- revision of height limits for installation of sprinklers
- removal of national classifications for combustibility
- updating of recommendations relating to lifts, including expanded recommendations for evacuation lifts
- updating of recommendations relating to smoke control

# Fire Engineering Council



- updating of recommendations relating to power supplies, external wall systems, kitchens, balconies, single-stair buildings and escape from basements

With such major revisions, once published it will change designs and introduce new recommendations and requirements into the way fire safety is implemented into high rise residential buildings.

The Council has also been working with both the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) and Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety (CROSS). CROSS has operated for over 15 years, but until recently, focused on structural safety issues. Created by a group known as Standing Committee on Structural Safety (SCOSS), the leading thinkers from the Institution of Structural Engineers recognised that there could be great benefits achieved by providing a route for people in their profession to share learning in a safe, independent, non-judgmental process.

CROSS relaunched in March 2021 with a new website, scope, and name. Now known as Collaborative Reporting for Safer Structures, the name change reflects the widening of CROSS's remit to include fire safety. Significant investment by the UK Government's Building Safety Programme team has facilitated a complete refresh of the website and engagement with the fire sector, the driver for this being the Grenfell Tower fire and the subsequent analyses of our building safety system.

With the help of the IFE and the FIA, the integration of fire safety into CROSS enables us to raise the bar in fire safety and improve the industry as a whole.



## FRES Council



Representing our suppliers to the Fire and Rescue sector, we continue to expand our involvement within the FR landscape and beyond to the wider fire safety environment. Liaising with a number of government departments, the NFCC and a host of other stakeholders, we are able to contribute to and influence the changes occurring in the sector.

Highlights over the last year include:

- Responding pro-actively to the evolution of the Fire and Rescue Services
- Growing liaisons with central and local government, NFCC and the Fire Service College among many others
- Participation in exhibitions and other industry events
- Focus on Procurement and Product Innovation
- Formal statements on Supply Chains, Inflationary Pressures and Ethical Practices
- Practical assistance to Ukraine
- Creation of PPE and Events Working Groups

# Export Council



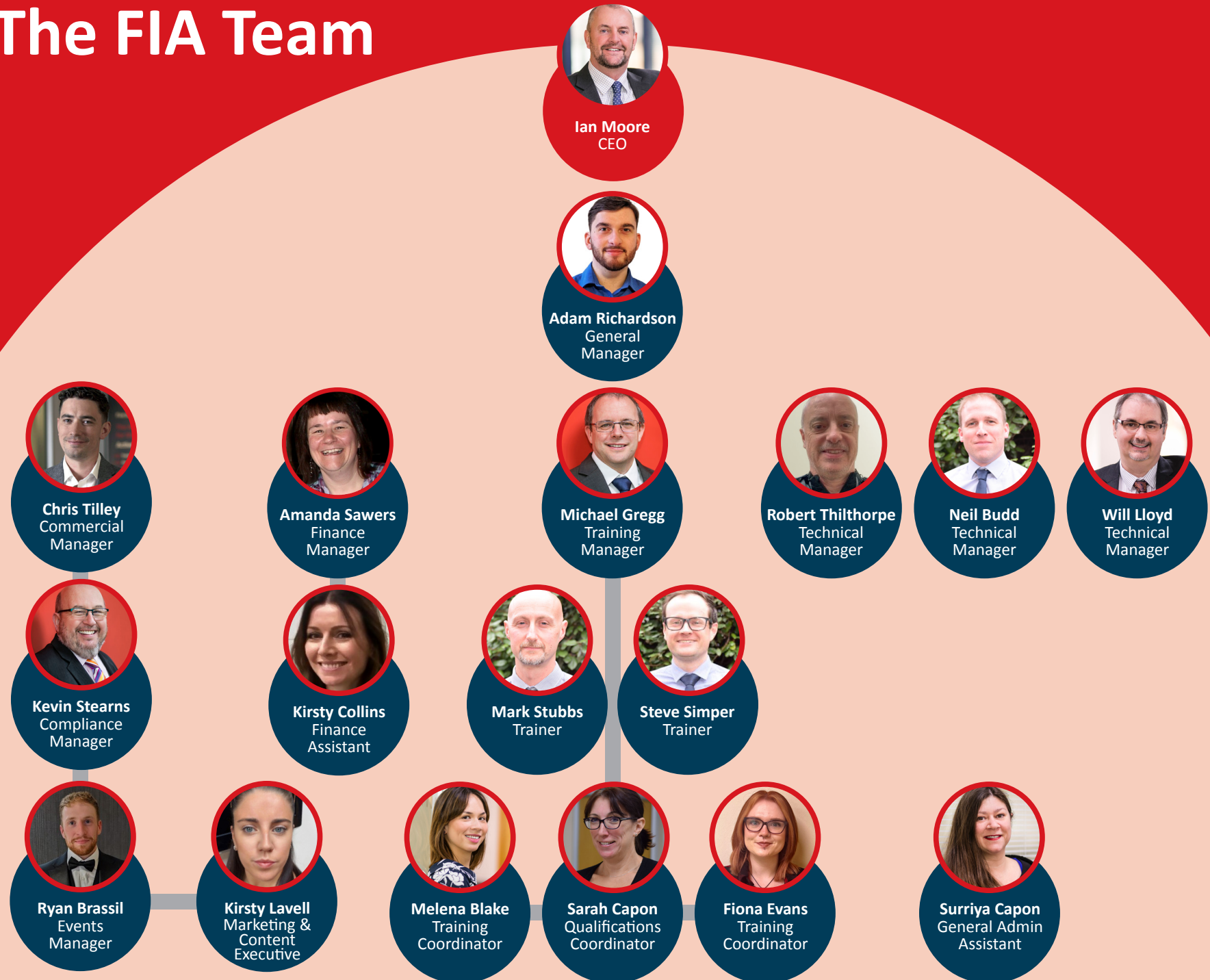
This Council represents over 60 'FIA Exporters' in its efforts to grow the global placement of UK fire sector products and services. We continue to work with partners including DIT DSE, overseas fire trade bodies and exhibition organisers to develop tangible opportunities for our exporting member companies.

Highlights over the last year include:

- Assisting members in the post-Brexit and post-Covid era and these times of economic uncertainty
- Regular meetings enabling decision-making and exchange of views and experiences
- Focus on key issues affecting our UK exporters
- Research and information on topics of interest
- Growing liaisons with DIT UK DSE and others including BSIA and NFCC
- Series of webinars for FSAI members in India



# The FIA Team





**Fire Industry Association**

Leading Excellence in Fire Since 1916

[www.fia.uk.com](http://www.fia.uk.com)