

To: PS/DPM

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Note of Phil Hope's meeting to discuss Part (Approved Document) B.

1. Phil Hope met with Building Division officials to discuss Part (AD) B - Fire Safety on Wednesday 9 March 2005.
2. Clive Norris, Jeff Channing, Anne Hemming, Anthony Burd, and Anthony Lord were present.
3. PH told officials he had looked at their submission dated 28 February 2005. He welcomed the work that had been done. He remarked that he thought what was being proposed about residential sprinklers needed to be explained in "plain English".
4. The Minister said his main concern in the document was the issue of the removal self closing door devices. He said he felt uncomfortable about what could be seen as a contradiction, on one hand removing self closing devices on doors and on the other hand working for higher standards of fire safety. He also said that doing this at the same time as cuts were being made in the fire safety publicity budget caused him some concern.
5. A discussion then took place and officials agreed to change the text to "minded to" in the next draft of AD B.
6. The Minister also pointed out that he wanted ODPM officials to work closely with DfES officials to ensure that AD B could be published in tandem with BB100 (DfES fire safety in schools), but also to ensure DfES didn't delay this.
7. Further discussions took place around the submission and draft documents.
8. The Minister concluded that he would be content that the internal process of getting AD B approved and ready was done at official level and subject to his comments being addressed and the DPM's approval of this going to DA. He however made it clear that he did not want the document to become public before the early weeks of May. He also stated that Clive Norris from the fire directorate was to work closely with building officials to ensure that the fire safety aspect of self closing doors in domestic dwellings were addressed as Phil Hope did not want the fire safety aspect to be damaged by removal self closing door devices.