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**From:** Brian Martin  
**Sent:** 25 October 2010 12:02  
**To:** Ken Knight  
**Cc:** Louise Upton; Peter Wise; Anthony Burd; Ken Bromley  
**Subject:** RE: Building Regulations (Review) Bill - Lords 2nd Reading

Thanks Ken - It's complicated (as with all things related to building regs)

On the one side, there is a desire to reduce regulatory burden. In the "your freedom" exercise there were a high number of submissions from ordinary citizens (probably electricians) calling for revocation of Part P (electrical safety) of the building regs. On the other side we have NIC EIC and other electrical safety campaigners calling for Part P to be made more onerous (the CFOA event was part of an ongoing campaign)!

I think giving industry (ie the NIC EIC) responsibility for the future development of the technical requirements contained in approved documents P would be a bit like letting Ronnie King write ADB! It would save the Department the costs of drafting the AD but that isn't necessarily in the best interests of UK plc!

Given the number of responses on YF, It's likely that we will do something to Part P although what we do is by no means clear (yet).

Brian

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**From:** Ken Knight  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2010 11:50 AM  
**To:** Brian Martin  
**Cc:** Louise Upton; Peter Wise  
**Subject:** RE: Building Regulations (Review) Bill - Lords 2nd Reading

Brian

Thanks. Has the NICEIC proposal go "legs"? This is obviously a follow up to the CFOA/electrical industry sponsored dinner at the recent Conservative Party Conference which I understand BN attended.

Ken

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**From:** Brian Martin  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2010 9:38 AM  
**To:** Ken Knight; Louise Upton; Cath Reynolds; Anthony Burd; Mike Larking; Steven Kelly; Ken Bromley  
**Cc:** Richard Longman; Peter Wise; Shayne Coulson; Sarah Sturrock  
**Subject:** Building Regulations (Review) Bill - Lords 2nd Reading

See attached link for news item in video of this debate regarding a Bill to require the Government to carry out a review into the provision of sprinklers in residential buildings.

This takes you to Hansard

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101022-0001.htm#10102224000136>

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Briefing.

**Ken Bromley**

**Note the Comments from Lord Tope about electrical safety & fire**

I now digress a little, as this is a Second Reading debate. We will all agree that fire prevention is even better than fire control. I have been approached by NICEIC, which has regulated the UK electrical industry on a voluntary basis since 1956. It tells me that in 2007 there were over 43,000 fires of electrical origin in the UK, nearly 8,000 of which were due to electrical fault. NICEIC believes that it is imperative that standards of electrical installation work are not impacted on adversely by potential future changes to the building regulations. It believes that building regulations can be improved to reduce the burden on local and central government, as well as to the tradesmen belonging to a competent persons scheme. Those schemes are working well, but better regulation enforcement and promotion are needed. There is a need to ensure compliance and consistency in the building regulations so that practitioners, as well as consumers, can have confidence in the standards of the electrical work carried out. NICEIC contends that if industry were to take responsibility for the future development of the technical requirements contained in approved documents, such as approved document P, there would be greater clarity and industry support, thereby ensuring consistency and compliance. This would reduce the burden, in terms of staff time and costs, on central government.

**Earl Attlee replied as follows**

In response to my noble friend Lord Tope-I think that I have touched on this-Andrew Stunell will make a statement around the end of this year to set out his intentions for the building regulations. It will include plans relating to electrical safety.

Brian