



Peter Holland OBE QFSM
President, Chief Fire Officers Association
9-11 Pebble Close
Amington, Tamworth
Staffordshire
B77 4RD

Bob Neill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Department for Communities and Local Government

Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
E-Mail: bob.neill@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.communities.gov.uk

Thank you for your letter of 28 September in which you reiterated CFOA's concerns regarding timber framed buildings. I am also aware of your association's public call for an urgent review of the Building Regulations to consider the issue of external fire spread from fires involving construction sites.

You will be interested to note that I have recently discussed this matter with my colleague, Andre Stunell who has Ministerial responsibilities for building regulations. Notwithstanding the work that HSE have been doing in this area both I and Andrew recognise that there are other issues that may need to be considered. With this in mind we are calling a round table meeting of relevant bodies to take stock of the position on this issue, to probe the industry on their plans to ensure safety, and give them an opportunity to identify actions that Government may need to take to help them achieve it. The Organisations that have been asked to attend this meeting are as follows;

The Chief Fire Officers Association
The UK Timber Frame Association
The House Builders Federation
The Building Control Alliance
The Health and Safety Executive
The Association of British Insurers

I would be very grateful if you or a colleague would agree to attend this meeting to represent CFOA. Could your office please get in touch with Roberto Singcuenco on [REDACTED] to make the necessary arrangements.

In your letter you raise the issue of research. In relation to firefighting in timber framed buildings, the Department had invited tenders but no contract has been let. I am minded, in the first instance, to commission officials within the Department to work with the sector to carry out a scoping study to identify what knowledge already exists and where further work will be of benefit. I hope I can rely on the assistance of CFOA in this work.

BOB NEILL MP