

The changing role and status of **‘Fire Safety Engineers’**

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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Engineering

Grenfell Tower
Inquiry

**GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY:
PHASE 2 REPORT**

REPORT of the PUBLIC INQUIRY into the
FIRE at GRENFELL TOWER
on 14 JUNE 2017

The Panel:

Chairman: The Rt Hon Sir Martin Moore-Bick

Ali Akbar OBE

Thouria Istephan

September 2024

Volume 1

Part 1 – Introduction

Part 2 – The path to disaster

HC 19–1



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Cabinet Office



Home Office

Policy paper

Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report: Government response (HTML)

Updated 2 June 2025

58 Recommendations – all (essentially) accepted by Government



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grenfell-tower-inquiry-phase-2-report-government-response/grenfell-tower-inquiry-phase-2-report-government-response-html>



<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-response-grenfell-tower-inquiry-phase-2-report/>

Fire Engineers Advisory Panel

The Fire Engineers Advisory Panel is an expert advisory panel established in April 2025 to provide advice to government on the fire engineering profession.

Membership

- Ms Alexandra Parish (Chair, MHCLG)
- Professor Luke Bisby
- Mr Jim Fitzpatrick
- Dr Vasilis Koutsomarkos
- Dr Barbara Lane
- Mr Neil O'Connor
- Dr Michael Spearpoint
- Professor Jose Torero

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/fire-engineers-advisory-panel#membership>

*** Note: Included observers from respective devolved governments**

FEAP Terms of Reference

- Recommendation 15: For the profession of fire engineer to be recognised and protected by law and for an independent body to be established to regulate the profession, define the standards required for membership, maintain a register of members and regulate their conduct (113.25);

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- Recommendation 17: That the government convene a group of practitioner and academic fire engineers and such other professionals as it thinks fit to produce an authoritative statement of the knowledge and skills to be expected of a competent fire engineer (113.27);

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- Recommendation 17: That the government convene a group of practitioner and academic fire engineers and such other professionals as it thinks fit to produce an authoritative statement of the knowledge and skills to be expected of a competent fire engineer (113.27);
- Recommendation 18: That the government, working in collaboration with industry and professional bodies, encourage the development of courses in the principles of fire engineering for construction professionals and members of the fire and rescue services as part of their continuing professional development (113.28).

*** Note: *not* within the FEAP remit...**

Recommendation 10

That it be made a statutory requirement that a fire safety strategy produced by a registered fire engineer to be submitted with building control applications (at Gateway 2) for the construction or refurbishment of any higher-risk building and for it to be reviewed and re-submitted at the stage of completion (Gateway 3). Such a strategy must take into account the needs of vulnerable people, including the additional time they may require to leave the building or reach a place of safety within it and any additional facilities necessary to ensure their safety. (113.15)



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Policy paper

Fire Engineers Advisory Panel: Authoritative Statement

Published 17 December 2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-engineering-profession-reform/fire-engineers-advisory-panel-authoritative-statement>

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- fire engineers require deep understanding and knowledge of **core architectural and engineering principles, fire science, human behaviour, and regulations relevant to buildings and fire safety**

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- fire engineers require deep understanding and knowledge of **core architectural and engineering principles, fire science, human behaviour, and regulations relevant to buildings and fire safety**
- **other built environment disciplines** need to acquire more detailed understanding of fire engineering and the role of the fire engineer in order to produce consistently fire safe buildings.

The Authoritative Statement also identifies areas the Panel considers essential to managing increasing building complexity and reducing life-safety risks:

- **expanding the scope of buildings and critical infrastructure that require a fire safety strategy** beyond the existing definition of a Higher Risk Building (HRB), based on a holistic approach that takes into account design complexity, usage or occupancy demographics
- **introducing periodic review of the fire safety strategy during occupation**, to ensure it is still fit for purpose as building use evolves and as maintenance works are undertaken

Legislative basis and aims

The government will legislate to regulate the title and function of a “fire engineer” to strengthen public safety and professional accountability. Establishing the regulator and regulatory framework will require primary legislation.

A public consultation on the details of regulation and implementation will take place in 2026.

Subject to consultation, the legislation should:

- define the statutory functions of fire engineers, including design, delivery and periodic review of the fire safety strategy
- establish the legal basis for regulation of the profession, ensuring that there are consistent professional standards and robust enforcement
- set out the relationship between fire engineers and all relevant dutyholders, reinforcing that responsibility for safety is shared but clearly delineated

Statutory regulation would mean that, after legislation is implemented, only registered individuals will be legally permitted to use the title “fire engineer” or carry out restricted fire engineering functions and activities.

Fire Engineers Transitional Board

To guide the early stages of reform, the government will establish a Transitional Board comprised of experienced regulators, representatives from professional bodies, and expert advisers.

While the future regulator will ultimately maintain the profession's competency standards, the Transitional Board will support MHCLG to:

- develop a competency framework for the profession
- establish education and training standards
- develop routes to registration and professional oversight
- expand higher education provision, exploring the potential of consortia, bursaries, and research funding, as well as other options



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
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Open call for evidence

Call for evidence: Strategy for the built environment professions, trades and occupations

Published 20 May 2026

Applies to England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/strategy-for-the-built-environment-professions-trades-and-occupations/strategy-for-the-built-environment-professions-trades-and-occupations>

Questions / Discussion



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