**06th September 2022**

Dear Ben

**Future Firefighter Project**

I’m writing to you as Chair of the National Fire Chief’s Councils (NFCC) PPE and Clothing Committee, which I trust you are aware as being your organisations representative on the committee.

You may have already seen a letter from NFCC Chair Mark Hardingham recently sent to all chief’s, if not it can be viewed on the projects dedicated webpage along with other relevant information about the project here:

[The Future Fire Fighter - National NFCC Fire Commercial Transformation Programme (nfcc-procurementhub.org.uk)](https://www.nfcc-procurementhub.org.uk/our-work/ppe-clothing/the-future-fire-fighter/)

The purpose of my communication is to build upon this communication so that you are aware of the detail that sits behind the project and most importantly how your organisation can get involved.

Now more than ever following the recent heatwave and the expectation that climate change will continue to make our working environments more challenging; and in addition to other concerns which built the business case behind the research funding application (which can be viewed on the webpage), it is clear that this is the right time to look forward at the evolving nature of our operational services and consider how we approach this challenge to ensure firefighter safety is maintained and improved.

Dstl will undertake this important research and will be arranging an interview with the Fire and Rescue Service Association through you as the named representative on the NFCC PPE and Clothing committee. It is important that your member’s views are well represented and I would suggest that a maximum of 8 participants in the meeting should give enough representation to achieve this.

Please bear in mind we are also arranging interviews with Fire Officers Association, Fire Brigades Union, Women in the Fire Service and Asian Fire Service Association to ensure a diverse response from staff organisations.

The interviews will be semi structured and maybe either virtual or face to face. You will be contacted shortly (by dstl) to make arrangements for your interview. All interviews are being conducted through to the end of the year and we are expecting the report from dstl in March 2023 and this will allow the project to move into phase 2 in 2023/24. The next phase will use the information collated to develop concept designs.

The cost of this first phase of research is significant and I would urge you to ensure that you are truly representing the views of your organisation. This may require you to undertake some internal research and speak with colleagues to ensure you have the right information that can be passed to dstl.

The vice-chair of NFCC PPE/C, Brett Egan-Briers, is co-ordinating this research on behalf of the sector and is happy to be contacted about the project at [brett.egan-briers@kent.fire-uk.org](mailto:brett.egan-briers@kent.fire-uk.org).

Can I also remind you that NFCC PPE/C committee also has a dedicated page:

[NFCC PPE & Clothing Committee | National Fire Commercial Programme (nfcc-procurementhub.org.uk)](https://www.nfcc-procurementhub.org.uk/who-we-are/nfcc-ppe-clothing-committee/)

We look forward to working with you on this incredibly exciting and important project

Regards

Steve

Steve Topham

**NFCC PPE/Clothing Committee Chair**

**Director of Emergency Response with Humberside**