FIS Heritage Plastering Working Group Meeting Notes

Notes from a meeting held on Tuesday 12 November at Saint Gobain Multi Comfort Centre 95 Great Portland Street W1W 7NY

Members are reminded they agree to conform to FIS policy to comply with the enterprise act 2002.

The meeting is convened and held in accordance with the FIS Memorandum and Articles of Association and the regulations made by the Association.

The Association has in place procedures to ensure compliance with all relevant competition laws and the meeting is subject to those procedures.

The objectives of the groups are:

- Develop technical standards as required
- Promote best practice in the market
- Educate and inform clients and specifiers about the working group’s work
- Promote the products and skills of FIS members in this field
- Shape the market so that the correct adherence to standards is recognised and adhered to by all to the benefit of clients

Present

David Serra (DS) George Jackson
Iain McIlwee (IMc) FIS
Joe Cilia (JC) FIS
John Stewart (JS) Historic England
Jon Riley (JR) Locker and Riley (Chair)
Kenneth Fisher (KF) David Fisher and Sons
Michael Arney (MA) Artisan Plastercraft
Michelle Placide (MP) Saint-Gobain Formula
Ray Deeks (RD) G Cook and Sons

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<td>Welcome</td>
<td>JR reminded members that conform to FIS policy to comply with the enterprise act 2002. The meeting was convened and held in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of FIS and the regulations made by the Association. The Association has in place procedures to ensure compliance with all relevant competition laws and the meeting is subject to those procedures.</td>
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<td>Discuss recent ceiling collapse at the Piccadilly Theatre</td>
<td>It was agreed that the ceiling collapse at the Piccadilly Theatre appeared to be caused by water ingress and not the failure of the ceiling. However, there may be other buildings where there is a risk where fibrous ceilings may collapse due to failure of the ceiling due to time, dampness, overloading, lack of maintenance or external forces such as vibration from modern sound amplification.</td>
<td>it was agreed to contact the ABBT (Mark White) The Theatre Trust (Claire Appleby) and local authority conservation officers to remind them of their responsibility to identify and inspect ceilings regularly and point out the good practice guidance available.</td>
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<td><strong>Product</strong> Workshop to agree the scope of the performance requirements required for fibrous plaster ceilings.</td>
<td>FIS should help to promote the use of fibrous and GRG plaster to address the decline where plasterboard is being used to provide alternatives. It was agreed to investigate the following suggestions:</td>
<td>The following actions were agreed:</td>
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<td><strong>Process</strong> Update on Process chart for repairing lath and plaster ceilings</td>
<td>JS &amp; JR presented a process form to address the repair of lath and plaster ceilings, which together with a flow chart will form a guidance piece to address repairs and replacement where necessary.</td>
<td>The process form and flow chart to be circulated to the group to allow highlight any additional questions and points before publication.</td>
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<td><strong>People</strong> Update on NVQ for heritage and fibrous plaster</td>
<td>IMc presented an update on the FIS Skills Strategy, drawing on the work the concept of the skills funnel (thinking of the operative as the customer and mapping how we sell and deliver careers) and the work the organisation has been doing through various Working Groups on competency as part of the Grenfell Review). The latest report Raising the Bar HERE includes recommendations put forward by FIS based on a measurable matrix based on the Skills Attitude Knowledge and Experience (known as Competency SAKE model). This is driving a new approach to the FIS Skills Work. IM moved on to talk about concerns related to the new Plasterer Apprenticeship Standard and falling numbers of plastering apprentices.</td>
<td>Contact with RICS IStructE was also recommended. David Ing to be asked to help counter any adverse publicity about Fibrous ceilings in light of the collapse.</td>
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It has been confirmed that this standard has been revised to a level 2 due to issues with delivery and foundation skills, but training providers were still reporting problems. FIS is following up with the Institute of Apprenticeships. In the presentation IM highlighted a list of current FIS Approved Training Providers, but suggested provision was still based on the old framework.

IM presentation highlighted NVQ qualifications that could be used for training and funding available

**England and Wales**

- Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Plastering (Construction)
  - Fibrous
- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Plastering (Construction)
  - Fibrous
- Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Plastering (Construction)
  - Solid
- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Plastering (Construction)
  - Solid
- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Heritage Skills (Construction) - Plastering Occupations (Fibrous plastering)
- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Heritage Skills (Construction) - Plastering Occupations (Solid plastering)

**Scotland**

- Plastering (Construction) SCQF level 5
- Plastering (Construction) SCQF level 6
- Heritage Skills (Construction) (Plastering Occupations) at SCQF level 6

The new FIS Head of Skills is joining in Jan and will be picking up the review of qualifications.

FIS is re-engaging with the IfA to address some of these concerns with the apprenticeship.

IM and JR to meet with the Building and Crafts College to discuss potential for a new Centre.

**AOB**

**Expanding the group to encompass plastering**

Discussion took place on extending the work of the group to include plaster, and although there is commonality it was decided to keep the specialist Heritage work separate but meet on the same day to allow people who want to attend both meetings.

The group discussed the need for judging in the fibrous plaster category to be experienced in the sector.

The group discussed how the Princes Trust the Livery companies and Guild of Historic Plasterers could be engaged to help promote the sector especially to schools and colleges to attract more entrants to the sector.
| Date and time of next meeting | 24 March 2020 at Saint-Gobain Multi Comfort Visitor Centre, 95 Great Portland Street, London W1W 7NY | Time: 10:30 – 13:30 |