FIS Heritage and Fibrous Plaster Working Group

meeting notes and actions 12 10 21

FIS Heritage and Fibrous Plaster Working Group
Meeting held on 19 October 2021
The Plaisterers hall

Members are reminded they agree to conform to FIS policy to comply with the Competition Act 1998. The meeting is 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.

In attendance
Paul Buck
Kenneth Fisher
Colin Parkins
Mark Fossey
Ray Deeks
David Wilson
Sarah Mayfield
Adam Summers
Ian Playsted
Paula Clark
Simon Peck

Apologies
David Serra
John Stewart
Mark Fenton
Michael Arney
Philip Gashes
Robin Harrison

FIS
Iain McIlwee
Joe Cilia (notes)
George Swann

	Jon Riley welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the meeting is held in accordance with the competition act.	
	The following new guides were circulated in advance of the meeting. ▪ Specifiers guide to Ceilings and Absorbers HERE ▪ Ceiling fire performance HERE ▪ Site guide- Suspended ceilings can be downloaded HERE ▪ Resource Efficiency Action plan (REAP) HERE ▪ All our technical guides can be seen HERE ▪ The Competency Framework Career and Qualification Path HERE ▪ Apprentice guide for employers HERE	
	Update on legislation and standards BREXIT Construction Products Regulation (CPR) the supply chain and UK CA marking. Our Brexit toolkit is kept up to date and includes guidance on conformity marking. On the worker shortage, Iain explained that across the sector the equivalent annual recruitment rate is now at about 400% of previous levels due to new immigration rules and as a result that workers from the EU have not returned.	

	There are reported issues with mutual recognition between the EU and UK which are compounding the issue of applying the UKCA mark and CE mark and the likelihood is that products at ACVP Level 3 will require re-testing for distribution in the UK beyond Jan 2023. A big concern is that this will tie up testing capacity retesting rather than supporting evolution of scope and innovation. **The Building Safety Bill** was discussed. It was reported that this was as an overarching piece of legislation that defines High Risk Buildings. Key roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in the construction and management and gives powers to a new regulator to manage the construction process against clear gateways. It also allows for a Construction Product Regulator to be formed under the Building Safety Regulator who FIS are already engaged with. The Bill includes proposals increasing the period of liability against the Defective premises Act which was 6 years to 12 years and then extending it to 15 years. This is concerning. The timeline was discussed, with the whole process expected to take around 30 months. More information can be found HERE Confusion around design liability and a trend to squeeze design liability down the supply chain was a concern and making insurance more complex. More information on the presentation can be found in the slide deck	
	Market update Iain presented the Key findings from the FIS Fibrous and Heritage Plastering State of the Market Survey There was good response, but to avoid confusion in the data Iain pulled together 12 responses which he calculates represented 30% of the market in Fibrous Plaster work. An interesting point raised was around whether there is confusion within the market or within the way the market is presented regarding GRG and Fibrous. Interestingly the qualifications include GRG in Fibrous, but this is hand cast GRG opposed to proprietary purchased GRG from a Board manufacturer.Further distinctions discussed regarding bespoke and stock products. The survey showed that the market was showing signs of growth and that almost 50% of staff were PAYE which respondents suggested could increase through training and the retention of trainees.	IM to follow up with Film construction trade association to

	. Lengthening lead times, material price inflation was a concern, but availability of insurance was manageable and not a priority for most. The Film Industry was highlighted for poaching trained people, but notably regional. It was agreed to carry out a more in depth and targeted survey in 2022, broadening for clarity to cover Solid, Fibrous and GRG. More information on the presentation can be found in the slide deck	recommend alternative sub-contracting options
	Update on key activities and projects **Repair of Lath and Plaster Ceilings** FIS have employed Sarah Mayfield to write a new guide in line with outline agreed Scope: Produce a new guide to address a gap in peer reviewed advice to allow inspectors to: ▪ understand the reasons for the failure ▪ describe the type of failure and crack formation ▪ identify the type and degree of failure and its cause ▪ Provide guidance on repair options. Including ○ Proprietary consolidates ○ Understand the historic maintenance work to the ceiling and ○ its historic value. ○ An inspection regime ○ Competence Target audience ▪ Specialist Architects and conservation officers. ▪ Conservators and ornamental plasterers. ▪ Students and academics. A small working group will be formed to assist Sarah. It was agreed that a definition of terms was required for the sector. Post meeting note John Stewart has sent a full set of definitions which are attached to these notes **Fire tests for GRG ceilings when used for compartmentation** **Discussion** FIS is looking to form a working group to: ▪ agree to raise sufficient cash to fund the cost of carrying out a fire resistance test on a GRG fibrous ceiling, and a reaction to fire test of a sample panel of GRG plaster.	Please email joecilia@theFIS.org with Lath and Plaster repair if you would like to join this small working group. Please email joecilia@theFIS.org with GRG Fire test if you would like to join this small working group.

	▪ agree the governance of the group ▪ agree the appointment of an independent expert to conduct the tests on behalf of the group. More information on the presentation can be found in the slide deck	
	Skills and Competence in the workforce George Swann outlined the FIS strategy for Skills in the sector and updated the group on the current number of operatives in the Heritage plastering that have CSCS card registrations. Solid Plasterers: ▪ 13540 Blue card holders ▪ 2274 Gold card holders Fibrous Plasterers: ▪ 319 Blue card holders ▪ 294 Gold card holders Heritage ▪ 3 Gold cards - Solid plasterers ▪ 4 Gold cards- Fibrous plasters He outlined that the sector requires approximately 800 new entrants for Plastering and about 30 specialising in fibrous plastering per year up to 2025. There are currently 860 people registered on the English apprenticeship which is three years of training. There are 36 training providers delivering training for the English Apprenticeship in Plastering. FIS can help advise companies in relative training and funding options including those looking to employ apprentices. Paula Clark from CITB said that they are currently reviewing the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the sector and would like to hear from members who could help. The task is not arduous as the key criteria and objectives are contained in a little more than one A4 Page. More information on the presentation can be found in the slide deck	Please email MarieFlinter@theFIS.org for more information Please email Paula.Clark@CITB.co.uk or telephone 07736 796836 if you can help.
	Sustainability FIS have taken on a 'Sustainability Champion' Flavie Lowres flavielowres@thefis.org will work on apart time basis to develop strategies and support members. Meanwhile we are working with the Supply Chain sustainability School where a finishes and Interior's elearning hub has developed. FIS have also established a Sustainability Hub on our website to help members.	

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	Events **WorkSpace 2021** There is a new exhibition and conference taking place at the Business Design Centre in Islington on 4-5 November. Members can get a complimentary VIP ticket here Get your complimentary ticket at the Workspace Design Show - FIS (thefis.org) Please let us know if you are interested in taking space at next year's event where FIS have been asked to partner the show. FIS Awards 2022 Awards open, closes 31st October 2021 - FIS Contractors Awards - FIS (thefis.org) 2021 Awards dinner is on the 5th November - FIS Awards Lunch - 5 November 2021 - FIS (thefis.org) More information on the presentation can be found in the slide deck	
	AOB John Stewart at Historic England Sent an update on his work on Fibrous Plaster research. ▪ After six years of research, this project is nearing completion. It has consisted of: ▪ Materials testing at the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, University of Bath ▪ Writing commissions from fibrous plasterers and other conservation professionals ▪ Historical research by John Stewart ▪ This material is being assembled into a publication entitled: ▪ Fibrous Plaster: History and Conservation. ▪ It will be published in 2022 by the University of Liverpool Press, the external publisher of Historic England. ▪ This will be the first thorough publication on fibrous plaster, at some 250 pages.	
	Date and time of next meeting TBC There was request that the Autumn meeting should be scheduled to coincide with the Scottish Awards on 16 September	

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