

Proposed Social Housing (Automatic Fire Suppression Systems) (Scotland) Bill

The British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association (BAFSA) are pleased to support the initiative by David Stewart MSP in proposing a Member's Bill to improve fire safety in Scotland by requiring the installation of automatic fire suppression systems (sprinklers) into all new-built social housing.

We would also support the retro-fitting of automatic fire suppression systems (sprinklers) into all Scottish high-rise social housing.

BAFSA has campaigned for almost forty-five years to improve the safety of the public and Firefighters by the installation of automatic fire sprinklers, which control and extinguish fires in their very early stages.

We continue through our Membership to advocate for the highest standards for sprinklers in their manufacture, supply, installation and maintenance.

Through third party accreditation and the development of installer qualifications we ensure that our membership are competent and qualified to install sprinklers.

Sadly, 2017 and the early days of 2018 have seen a number of extremely serious fires in the UK. Some have had serious loss of life and others significant insurance costs, all have put both the public and Firefighters at risk from fire.

Automatic fire sprinklers have a proven track record for the mitigation of fire and the prevention of loss of life through fire, this goes back more than one hundred years..

The installation of sprinkler systems to the appropriate British Standards by competent, third party accredited installers will ensure that the risk from fire to the public and Firefighters is reduced significantly.

Sprinklers also reduce the impact on the environment from fire, they make buildings more sustainable, they ensure businesses are more resilient and they make economic sense over the lifespan of a building.

This proposed Members Bill would make a significant difference to the safety of the Scottish public and Firefighters while ensuring that Scotland's housing stock is more sustainable.

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