



## CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)

You will be aware the world is dealing with Corona Virus (COVID-19)

Speaking after an emergency COBRA meeting on 12th March 2020, UK Prime Minister, Mr Johnson said, "Some people compare it to seasonal flu, alas that is not right. Owing to the lack of immunity, this disease is more dangerous. It is going to spread further and I must level with you, I must level with the British public, many more families are going to lose loved ones before their time. This is the worst health crisis in a generation".

In the UK, the Republic of Ireland and throughout Europe, initiatives have been put in place to tackle the spread of the virus.

The Society cannot control 'social distancing' in groups.

It is un-likely that we have within The Society qualifications allowing the writing of a 'risk assessment' for visits, or meetings, under the current medical threat. It is also realised that 'the management' of hand washing throughout Society events is not practical.

The fire and rescue service is classified as an 'essential service' and we must not burden them with requests for visits, or meetings, for the immediate near future.

The Society needs to apply common sense to activities that are not essential.

Regrettably the following Society events have been cancelled:

***The FBS West Midlands Winter Meeting on Saturday 28th March 2020.***

***FBS Ireland visit to Wexford in April 2020.***

***FBS Scotland visit to Scottish FRS on 4th April 2020 (Now scheduled for the 2nd May 2020)***

***The FBS South West visit on 25th & 26th April 2020 to Wiltshire.***

***FBS North East April 2020 Monthly Meetings at Durham fire station***

Whilst awaiting further guidance and action from UK Government, the visits programmed for April 2020 must be regarded as 'in jeopardy'. One host has refused a visit in July 2020 as a result of the current risk.

Further updates regarding visits / events will be provided as necessary.

Renewal of membership for The Society year 2020 / 2021 continues.

This notice has been distributed to all Society Officers.

'FBS What's On' has been up-dated on the web-site and includes a possible additional event.

The Executive Supervisory Board trust members appreciate the need for this communication.

**The Executive Supervisory Board**

**14th March 2020**

