



# The Fire Brigade Society

## Annual General Meeting 2020 – 2021

After careful consideration, and with particular reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Supervisory Board announces the cancellation of the above event.

This decision has not been taken lightly, but under the current Covid “Rule of Six” it could not legally take place anyway. Whilst the instructions may change in the interim, restrictions are just as likely to get tighter as they are to ease. Both Professor Chris Whitty and Dr Jonathan Van-Tam, the Chief and Deputy Chief Medical Officers for England, whom you will no doubt have seen at Downing Street Press Briefings, have indicated that the current restrictions (at least) are likely to last until the New Year, or even until the end of the Winter ‘flu season next spring. The fact that the vast majority of the members who attend this event are in the age profile who are generally at higher risk, if not actually in the shielding category, has also been a major factor in coming to this decision.

### ***“What will be the effect on the management of The Society?”***

Under the democratic reforms instigated a number of years ago, all the main decisions are taken by ballot of the entire membership, rather than the select few that attend General Meetings. The vote for the acceptance, or otherwise, of The Society's Operational Plan 2021-2022, takes place in December, with the ballot papers for that going out with the November “Fire Cover”, No 230. To preserve this democratic principle, specific votes for major changes proposed by the Executive Supervisory Board, or proposals from members submitted in accordance with Section 20, Clause 3, of the constitution are circulated in the same way, rather than voted upon at the meeting. No proposals from the membership have been received. The only vote taken at the actual meeting is the acceptance of the minutes of the previous one. For this year, a separate ballot will be sent out to members who attended the 2019-2020 AGM, to be returned with the main voting slip. The cancellation therefore will not entail any loss of democracy, or have any material effect on the management of The Society.

Some consideration was given to postponing the meeting, rather than cancelling. The next opportunity to inform all the membership is not until late November / early December, only about two months before the possible dates. The overall consensus was that, given the factors outlined above this was only likely to be delaying the inevitable, and by making the decision now, gives a degree of certainty in a currently very uncertain world, and allows the effort required to organise the event, to be put towards alternative projects.