



ROOFING MATTERS: POLICY ACTIONS THAT IMPACT YOUR BUSINESS

How NFRC is tackling industry challenges,
amplifying your voice, and securing a
brighter future for roofing and cladding





INTRODUCTION

Trade associations, like NFRC, are vital in developing and implementing policies and laws alongside the government and other agencies.

NFRC's policy objectives, which are outlined in this booklet, seek to:

- HIGHLIGHT EMERGING ISSUES IN OUR SECTOR TO POLITICIANS AND THE PUBLIC
- IDENTIFY THE IMPACT OF POLICIES AND DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS
- COLLABORATE WITH RELEVANT BODIES TO ENSURE LEGISLATION ACHIEVES ITS AIMS
- PROVIDE A CONSTRUCTIVE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SECTOR

Engaging with the government on policy is more important than ever as economic and social pressures continue to hurt business operations and the ability to hire new talent. Changes to building regulations and the rollout of the Building Safety Act are still in the early stages as we work towards

professional and cultural transformation across the construction sector.

Roofing and cladding remain filled with opportunities for businesses at every stage in the supply chain. Apart from its main purposes, roofing and cladding are critical for driving energy efficiency in new builds and retrofits, delivering designed and safe solar roofs, reducing the flow of water into our overworked drainage systems, and creating living biodiverse roofs.

Your voice is key to providing the knowledge and evidence NFRC needs to advocate for change that will improve the industry and the UK, so please don't hesitate to get involved.

James Talman
NFRC CEO



POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The NFRC's national offices lobby Parliament in Westminster, support advocacy efforts in the devolved authorities of Scotland and Wales, and engage with Metro Mayors.

We use your data and stories to discuss member-related issues with politicians and work with the media and trade press to raise public awareness.



We also partner with other construction organizations, such as the Construction Leadership Council and Build UK, to support their initiatives when appropriate. While NFRC's primary focuses are outlined in this booklet, we remain responsive to emerging challenges.

Gray Gibson
NFRC Policy Officer



Your voice matters

If you have feedback on our focuses or would like to share an experience your business has had, please scan this QR code with your phone.

If you'd prefer a one-on-one conversation, please email our Policy Officer, Gray Gibson at policy@nfrc.co.uk.



NFRC
LEADING ROOFING EXCELLENCE

1 RETENTIONS

Retention clauses compromise the financial stability of our Members, harming business security and productivity. NFRC will advocate against retentions until they are no longer included in JCT and NEC contract templates or used by registered providers. We encourage Members to refuse contracts with retention clauses where possible. The government must go further than reporting on retention practices, especially if smaller operators are to be protected.



2 FAIR PAYMENT PERIODS

Delayed payment to contractors and suppliers exacerbate the challenges of running a business. NFRC wants the Fair Payment Code to be mandatory, enforceable, and for it to cover a larger cohort of businesses. We will monitor the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 to ensure that payment practices are considered during public procurement.



“As the UK’s leading national commercial roofing and waterproofing contractor, we value our association with the NFRC, the largest roofing trade association in the UK.”



3 PROFESSIONALISING

NFRC is committed to ensuring our members deliver quality workmanship. Contracts should be awarded to the most qualified operators, not just the lowest bidders, and consumers must be aware of rogue traders. We will work with government agencies and major contractors to enforce Common Assessment Standards and promote registered traders and quality assurance schemes like TrustMark.



4 THE SKILLS CRISIS

The lack of skilled labour is a critical bottleneck that will restrict industry and housing growth over the coming years. We are engaging with Skills England, the Department for Education, CITB, and the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure the nuances of our industries are considered within construction education strategies, focusing efforts on employers' needs including making sure the growth and skills levy supports and incentivise businesses to act strategically.



We work collaboratively with the NFRC in raising industry concerns and driving positive change for the benefit of all the industry. ”

BriggsAmasco



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5 STIMULATING INVESTMENT

NFRC Members have a critical role to play in retrofitting the UK's rapidly ageing housing stock. To meet its energy efficiency targets, the government must encourage investment through increased building allowances, where the UK currently lags far behind the OECD (The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) average. There are also great opportunities if conservation laws are opened to permit greater retrofitting of heritage stock.



6 SKILLED SOLAR

Our Members will be a critical part of the UK's journey to net zero, but solar must be installed properly by those who are qualified to be on a roof. Regulations must be updated to ensure solar is being installed safely, efficiently, and at an increased scale.



“ Building record levels of New Homes and Retrofitting 28.5 million existing homes, to meet developing Net Zero standards, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Roofing and Cladding.”

7 PRODUCT STANDARDS

Suppliers who are assured their products can be used outside of the UK will stimulate investment. NFRC will continue to advocate for the government to clarify its relationship with the EU and provide certainty to manufacturers.



8 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Responsible business practices are increasingly important for consumers and the government. NFRC will support Members to engage in environmentally conscious business practices, improve industry reputations, and bring in a diversified cohort of new entrants.



Effective representation is a clear NFRC commitment and a driving reason for membership, while Member engagement consistently reaps rewards. ”

John Forster—Forster Group Chairman



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NFRC

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