



**Subject** Membership of Working Group 7  
**Purpose** For Decision  
**From** Simon Howard, Head of Professional Standards

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## 1. Summary

ARB currently chairs Working Group 7 (WG7), the Group tasked with establishing the competencies required for architects and designers to work on Higher-Risk Residential Buildings (HRRBs).

Working Group 7 is co-chaired by ARB Board members Nabila Zulfiqar and Richard Parnaby (Chair and vice-Chair), whose Board tenure will end with the implementation of the statutory instrument on 7 January 2019.

This paper is for the Board to decide whether to confirm the continued appointment of Nabila Zulfiqar and Richard Parnaby to WG7, even if they are not reappointed to the Board.

## 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board agrees to Nabila Zulfiqar and Richard Parnaby continuing to co-chair Working Group 7, regardless of whether they are reappointed as Board members.

## 3. Open Session

## 4. Contribution to the Board's Purpose and Objectives

In delivering the Act, ARB's objectives are:

Consumers: will have confidence in the competence of architects to work on HRRBs.

Architects: A comprehensive competency framework will provide them with a clear expectation on what competencies they should have to work on HRRBs.

## 5. Key Points

- i. In May 2018 Dame Judith Hackitt published her report '*Building a Safer Future: Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety*'. An Industry Response Group (IRG) was formed to deliver the recommendations within that report.
- ii. One of those recommendations was that there should be a competence framework specifically for those involved in the design, construction and maintenance of HRRBs. The IRG formed 12 working groups, spanning across the professions, to set the required competencies for their particular specialisms.

- iii. In May 2018 ARB was asked, and agreed, to chair the working group looking at the competencies for architects and designers. It was further agreed that this group should be chaired by the ARB Chair (Nabila Zulfiqar) and vice-chair (Richard Parnaby).
- iv. The ongoing work of the IRG to date is confidential. The Board will be updated via the Confidential Registrar's Report.
- v. *The Architects Act 1997 (Amendments etc.) Order 2018* comes into force on 7 January 2019, meaning that Nabila and Richard will no longer be Board members.
- vi. So as to support the work and continuity of WG7, it is proposed that both Nabila and Richard continue as co-chairs, regardless of whether they are reappointed to the Board. If they are not reappointed, the Board will be kept updated on the work of WG7 by the ARB secretariat. The decision of this Board cannot, of course, bind any decisions of the new Board as to the ongoing membership of the Working Group.

#### 6. Resource implications

Each organisation is responsible for the expense of attending WG7. ARB's commitment is limited to staff time, the logistics of monthly meetings, and the time and travel expenses of Nabila and Richard. Funds have been set aside for this work.

#### 7. Risk Implications

ARB's work in this area is high profile and so high risk. A failure to engage coherently with others in response to the Grenfell disaster would be reputationally damaging, and may result in a regulatory solution that is ineffective or inappropriate for architects. Having experienced and consistent representation on Working Group 7 mitigates those risks.

#### 8. Communication

ARB is committed to working with partners and government to enhance building safety.

#### 9. Equality and Diversity Implications

None identified.

#### 10. Further Actions

The Board will be provided with regular updates on the work of WG7 and the IRG.