

Working Together On Your Behalf

Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) Mini Business Reference Panel Meeting

February, 2022

Our experts – working on your behalf

Steve Moore is consultant director at British Furniture Manufacturers (BFM) and brings well over 30 years of industry experience to the role.

Recently, on behalf of BFM members, Steve attended the OPSS Mini Business Reference Panel meeting (virtual) held on the **4th February 2022**.

The meeting was opened by Heather Woodward (OPSS Business Engagement Lead) outlining the work currently being undertaken by OPSS in developing a new strategy for 2022 – 2025 as the department transitions from its focus on product safety to include the broader role of a 'National Product Regulator'.



OPSS was created in January 2018 to deliver consumer protection and to support business confidence, productivity and growth working with local, national and international regulators, with consumer representatives and with businesses to deliver effective protections and support opportunities for UK trade and investment in building global capability to tackle shared regulatory challenge.

OPSS presented that recent years have seen considerable technological, social and economic change as well as significant levels of product innovation. The ways in which products are purchased, the increasing importance of environmental concerns and the shifting nature of supply chains are all areas of key concern.

The mission, going forward, is to be the leader of UK regulatory practice and a champion of local regulation. In addition to product safety (for all consumer products, except for vehicles, medicines and food) the new strategy (which is planned to be released later this year) will now embrace legal metrology, construction products and energy supply.



OPSS presents that regulation can't be developed in a vacuum and must take into account economic and environmental considerations especially product design, lifetime and reuse. The enforcement role of OPSS, through Local Authorities and Trading standards, is seen as being inextricably linked to effective product regulation.

The new strategy will continue to build on this role in order to best ensure that the OPSS is trusted by consumers and business alike by making regulation work, so that it protects people and enables businesses to understand their obligations.

In developing the new strategy OPSS will continue to seek the views and opinions of business and stakeholders across the wide expanse of regulatory areas in play in order to fully consider all views at this crucial formative stage.

OPSS also leads on standards and accreditation policy across government, working with the British Standards Institution and the United Kingdom Accreditation Service, providing benchmarks for the manufacture of safe products, regulation, compliance and enforcement.