



# Newsletter

May 2023  
Issue 04

## Welcome

Welcome to the fourth in our series of Newsletters that we will be publishing throughout the year in order to update on our activities and give you an opportunity to engage better with us.

## Membership

My thanks to all of you who have paid your Membership subscription for 2023. Without your support our work would not be possible.

You will recently have received information regarding restructuring of CWCT. I am pleased to say that this has now taken place. Please be assured that from the perspective of our Members, nothing will change. This restructure was simply to streamline the operation of the business in order to improve efficiency. Having a single company should also make it easier for you as well.

We are currently looking to recruit a Principal Engineer. Anyone interested should email [cwct@cwct.co.uk](mailto:cwct@cwct.co.uk) for details.

## Communication

Please continue to regularly check the [Latest News](#) section of the CWCT website, which we increasingly use to share information.



We also have a [LinkedIn Group](#) where we try and share relevant information. If you are not already a

member of this, please request to join and help spread the word and promote the work of the CWCT by liking and sharing posts that we make.

## CWCT Courses

Our programme of [short courses](#) was announced recently. As in recent years, our courses will be delivered online via the excellent Thinkific learning platform.

Details of the courses, the programme and booking instructions can be found by following the link above.

We are pleased to announce that all of our courses have now been certified by the CPD Certification Service.



We believe that our courses will be a key part of meeting future competence requirements in response to the [Building Safety Act](#). Your feedback on our courses is crucial here. We are very keen to receive feedback from those who attend courses this year, and also in regard to courses that we should offer in the future. Please complete the survey at the end of the course or alternatively send any feedback to [cwct@cwct.co.uk](mailto:cwct@cwct.co.uk).

We have just completed teaching the final module of another successful year on the MSc in Façade



Engineering at [UWE Bristol](#). The next crop of façade engineers are nearly ready!

## CWCT AGM and Members' Meeting

Our next AGM and Members' Meeting will be held in London on 14<sup>th</sup> September – please save the date.

The themes for our next event are building safety/fire and recladding/refurbishment. Further details will be made available in due course.

The majority of the presentations from the last event are available to Members to download from the [Cladding Forum](#).

Guidance on how to access the Cladding Forum can be found [here](#).

## CWCT Technical Notes

A number of new Technical Notes have been published since the last Newsletter. These are:

- TN101 – *Investigating water leakage through the building envelope,*
- TN102 – *Decision table for site weathertightness testing of walls,*
- TN103 – *Test samples for stick curtain walling,*
- TN104 – *Cladding test specimens,*
- TN105 – *England 2021 Building Regulation overview – Energy performance,*
- TN112 – *Overhead glazing.*

Further draft Technical Notes covering aspects of thermal performance, thermal bridging and condensation are in preparation. Work is also continuing on other outstanding Technical Notes.

In addition, we have also published a new Technical Update, TU25, *Pressure equalisation of open jointed rainscreen.*

These documents are free to download for CWCT Members via the [Cladding Forum](#).

## Sustainability

We continue to lead the way with our work on façade sustainability.

Following the publication of our [embodied carbon calculation methodology for facades](#) at last year's AGM, we have since published a [worked example](#) and an [introduction to the methodology](#). We are very keen to receive feedback from users of the methodology and will be issuing a survey soon. Please look out for this and respond if possible.

We have also published a document called '[Facades and the race to net zero carbon](#)', which considers four different façade systems and compares typical embodied carbon values with current best practice values and LETI 2030 targets. This illustrates that although we have made significant progress in reducing the impact of our façade systems, there is still much to do.

All these documents, together with the methodology are free to download for CWCT Members via the [Cladding Forum](#).

Our other [sustainability workstreams](#) are all progressing well, and we hope to be able to share more details of this work soon.

As reported previously, we have recently launched a [Sustainability Stories](#) area on the CWCT website. Please consider submitting your own story to share with others.

There is a huge amount of work to do in this area, and we would like your feedback on the challenges you are facing and on our future work. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please email [sustainability@cwct.co.uk](mailto:sustainability@cwct.co.uk). My thanks to all those involved in this fantastic work.

## Health and safety in facades

It was previously reported that work had started on providing guidance on H&S issues related to façade design. This is now live on our [website](#).



The guidance is not intended to be prescriptive, neither is the information provided exhaustive. Instead, it is intended to inform readers of certain health and safety concerns, so that they may be considered by designers and contractors.

**We welcome your feedback on this initiative.** It is intended that this will be regularly updated, so if you have suggestions for topics that you think should be included, please email [cwct@cwct.co.uk](mailto:cwct@cwct.co.uk). Comments on the topics included can also be made via the website – again, we encourage your feedback, and experiences of the issues raised.

## Fire

We are putting the finishing touches on an update to the [CWCT/SFE guide](#) published following the 'ban' on combustible materials. We will inform you again when this is available to download.

The revision will contain a number of further clarifications and will continue to provide a consistent interpretation to a highly complex subject.

We continue to work on updating TN98. Progress has been slower than anticipated due to the complex nature of the subject and the uncertainty that still exists.

The update will focus on a number of key areas including:

- Reaction to fire/combustibility,
- Cavity barriers,
- Fire stopping.

In terms of reaction to fire requirements, a number of different interpretations are possible which would influence the materials that meet the guidance. Some reasoned argument and common sense is required to interpret the various recommendations contained within approved document B in such a way that a logical conclusion is reached. We are engaging with the government to hopefully help work through issues such as these. Regrettably this takes time.

As previously reported [here](#), it is proposed that our new guidance will recommend that curtain wall fire stops are tested in accordance with EN 1364-4. Making such a recommendation is the easy bit. The challenge is in understanding the consequences of this change, the issues that are introduced, what performance is required, how can that be assessed, and so on.

We are consulting widely on this issue, so if you have any specific concerns, particularly in relation to fire stopping, or would simply like to share your experiences of the measures currently being required in relation to the fire performance of curtain walls, please email [cwct@cwct.co.uk](mailto:cwct@cwct.co.uk) with details. Sharing this information will help us focus on providing guidance to help meet current challenges.

## SFE Awards

You still have time to enter the 2023 SFE Awards – entries close on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Please see the Awards [website](#) for details of the categories and how to submit your project.

Thank you again for your continued support of CWCT. As always, if you have any comments on the work that CWCT are doing, [please get in touch](#).

**David Metcalfe**  
**Director**  
**May 2023**