Obtaining registration as a Chartered Engineer via the IFE - Guidance for applicants working in the Enforcement Sector

Introduction
Any applicant for professional registration has to provide a refereed Professional Review Report (PRR) which details their personal experience, roles and responsibilities. Depending on the applicant's academic qualifications, an additional Technical Report may also need to be submitted at the request of the IFE’s Registrants Group Committee. Finally, applicants also attend a Professional Review Interview (PRI) carried out by experienced Engineering Council registered fire engineers.

The purpose of this document is to provide some simple guidance for prospective applicants who are working in the roles relating to enforcement of fire safety such as:

1. Building Control
2. Fire and Rescue Services
3. Insurance

Demonstrating that you are working at the right level
It is an essential requirement that an applicant can demonstrate to the peer review assessors and interviewers that he / she is currently practising fire engineering at the appropriate level. The full range of competency and commitment criteria which need to be satisfied are explained in the guidance to CEng applicants which can be downloaded from the IFE web site at the following link:

In terms of satisfying the requirements relating to the technical competency and commitment criteria, the key principle which applies is that the applicant’s professional roles and responsibilities must involve the use, by the applicant, of engineering judgment based on a sound knowledge of scientific and mathematical principles.

It is the adherence to this principle which presents applicants from the enforcement sector with a slightly greater challenge.

It is likely that a significant part of the applicant's work will relate to checking and advising on compliance with published standards and codes of practice and so on. In isolation, this type of work may not incorporate a sufficient use of science, mathematics and engineering judgement to satisfy the competency and commitment criteria.

It is therefore important that the applicant should take every effort to ensure that he / she is able to provide evidence of the following in the Professional Review Report:

1. Understanding of the scientific and mathematical principles underpinning the typical fire engineering methodologies that the applicant will come across in their enforcement role.

2. Ability and opportunity to research, identify and use relevant fire engineering methodologies to make professional judgements on designs, specifications and situations that may not comply with prescriptive standards or codes.

3. Contribution to technical policies in relation to the development, interpretation and / or application of standards and codes of practice and so on.

4. Involvement in driving forward change in their organisation.

To provide this evidence, it is likely that the applicant will need the support of his / her employer to ensure that the applicant’s role will include the appropriate opportunities to develop this evidence over the Initial Professional Development (IPD) period.