



2026 Report

2025 Review

The Annual Training Conference (ATC) in January 2025 was held in Liverpool, with 170 delegates participating in two days of presentation lectures with speakers from across the UK and Europe.

The Summer Training Conference 2025 was held in Southampton, with 80 delegates participating in presentation lectures covering the topics of Fire Scene Contamination and Health Issues.

A new resource has been created on the UK-AFI website, this provides further guidance and reference materials regarding Fire Investigator H&S and Wellbeing.

During this financial year, the administration address of the association was changed to PO Box 365, Alton, GU34 9LW.

During 2025 the UK-AFI Board approved a change in the association's Banking supplier, and have selected to bank with The Co-operative Bank. The association has opened a Charity and Community Bank Account with The Co-operative Bank. The switch between banking providers is ongoing.

UK-AFI Grants and Bursaries

The UK-AFI International Training Conference (ITC) Attendance Grant aims to provide one member per year with financial assistance, covering the conference and hotel fee of the venue, to support the training of our members beyond that supplied within the UK. The UK-AFI ITC attendance grant is not designed to cover all of the costs of attendance, but rather to offset specific costs, which would afford applicants a greater opportunity to attending the ITC. This grant supports the training and development of its members to increase their professional knowledge.

In January 2025 – one UK-AFI Member was randomly drawn from eligible applications and was awarded the ITC Attendance Grant, to attend the IAAI 76th ITC Conference, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Due to work commitments the Grant Winner formerly requested to defer their grant for one year, this was approved by the UK-AFI Board.



The IAAI-CFI/FIT Support Scheme is designed to support the development of UK-AFI members by providing financial support to professionals who are members of the UK-AFI and IAAI for the purpose of increasing their knowledge and understanding of Fire Investigation.

The UK-AFI Members IAAI-CFI/FIT Support Scheme is also aimed at promoting the credibility and value of Internationally recognised professional certification and programs here in the United Kingdom.

No applications for this Grant were received in 2025.

The Research and Academic Development Grant Program was developed to provide UK-AFI members with financial assistance, up to a maximum value of £2000 per annum, in support of research and study of fire investigation related work or projects.

The UK-AFI Research and Academic Development Grant Program is designed to support the development of UK-AFI members by providing financial support to professionals for the purpose of encouraging testing and research in subject areas germane to the field of fire investigation. Further details on eligibility requirements are available on our website.

No applications for this bursary were received during this financial year.

Membership

Our membership has continued to grow over the last 12 months seeing numbers rise to over 700 members across both public and private sectors. The public sector is still the dominant proportion of our members, and of those that engage in our CPD and training events, the proportion of public to private sector attendees reflect the overall membership.

Membership Affiliation	Count
Fire Service	464
Private Investigation	69
Consultant	57
Scientist	45
Engineering	38
Police Service	17
Other	16
Insurance	10
TOTAL	716

We are pleased to confirm that membership fees once again remain at £60 with a modest discount for multiple member organisations.



Enhanced Membership Levels

The UK-AFI offers five distinct levels of membership. All membership grades have the same benefits in terms of the access to the website, journal, seminars and training conferences and are subject to the Association's Code of Ethics. Membership grades are intended to differentiate between those that have recently entered the profession and those that have actively progressed through the objectives of the UK-AFI over a number of years.

Associate Member: this category of membership is open to those professionals in good standing who are actively engaged in some phase of fire and arson investigation. It is intended that members with less than two years practice in fire investigation and are working on fire investigation qualifications or related professional certifications hold Associate Grade Membership. All new members will be placed by default at the Associate Membership Grade.

Professional Member: this is the main category of membership denoting professional status open to those members with two or more years practice in fire and arson investigation, and those that have attained fire investigation qualifications or related professional certifications.

Fellow Member: this is the senior category of membership open to those who meet the requirements for Professional Member AND have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the field over a significant period.

Professional Members are entitled to use the post-nominals MFireInv to indicate professional membership of the Association. Fellow grade Members are entitled to use the post-nominals FFireInv to indicate their grade of membership within the Association. Life Membership does not carry separate post-nominals, however the holder remain entitled to use the post-nominal MFireInv or FFireInv (depending on the highest membership grade achieved).

Life Membership: Life Membership will be conferred at the discretion of the President.

Student Membership: this category of membership is open to those who are studying a full-time, undergraduate degree related to fire investigation, fire science or forensic science or a related field of study; are over 18 years of age are not currently working in a paid position in the fire or forensic investigation field. Student Membership is intended as an introduction to the UK-AFI. It is intended that Student Members will move to the Associate Membership Grade, when they become employed. Student Members do not have voting rights, they may not serve on or nominate others to serve on the Board.



Membership Grade	Count
Associate	654
Professional	35
Fellow	26
Lifetime Member	9
Student	0

The administration cost for the membership upgrade is £30, it is separate to Annual Membership costs.

Website

Our website (www.uk-afi.org) generates a significant amount of traffic. In addition to the UK-AFI website being a source of information with public and member's only content, our website forms our primary 'customer relationship management' software, managing our membership who can book conferences and seminars and manage their CPD records.

The website has a host of functions to keep you up to date with information about the status of your membership and is embedded within our mailing communication tool. Individual memberships can be maintained and renewed via the website and corporate memberships can add and remove individuals from their organisation without the need to contact the board via their Team Lead.

Accredited CPD Activity

The UK-AFI runs a CPD accreditation scheme where we provide accreditation to third-party training events, where the CPD activity promotes the objectives of the UK-AFI.

Where CPD hours are formally validated by the UK-AFI, event organisers are permitted to display their assigned UK-AFI CPD logo (including the activity hours within and a unique reference number) on certificates, programmes or advertising materials.

In 2025 thirty-nine events were approved with a total of 892 hours of Accredited CPD Activity Hours recognised.

More information is available on our website at <https://www.uk-afi.org/uk-afi-cpd-accreditation>.

Richard Hagger

President