

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Of**

**Dr ROBERT WALKER DOCHERTY QFSM, PhD, CEng,  
MEI, FIFSM (Life), FIFireE**

<b>PERSONAL DETAILS</b>
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**NAME** Robert Walker Docherty

**ADDRESS** 270 Bradshaw Meadows  
Bradshaw  
BOLTON  
BL2 4NF  
UK

**DATE OF BIRTH** 17 February 1949

**PREVIOUS APPOINTMENT** Retired in 2001 as: -  
Assistant Firemaster  
Director of Fire Safety  
Strathclyde Fire Brigade  
Brigade Headquarters  
Bothwell Road  
Hamilton ML3 0EA  
UK

**LENGTH OF SERVICE** 33 years

<b>EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS</b>
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**EDUCATIONAL**

July 1965 3 GCE 'O' Level passes in:  
Mathematics  
Engineering Drawing  
General Science

1980 Batchelor of Arts Degree with First Class Honours with  
the Open University (Psychology main subject)

1992 Doctor of Philosophy (Open University)

2003 Chartered Engineer

**FIRE SERVICE**

Passed November 1970 Leading Fireman

Passed February 1972 Sub Officer

Passed February 1973 Station Officer

## **THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS**

Passed March 1973  
Passed March 1974

Graduateship  
Membership

### **PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS AND RANKS**

<b>Blackpool County Borough Fire Brigade</b>	
30 December 1968	Joined Blackpool County Borough Fire Brigade <i>Appointed to Fireman in December 1968. Probationary service as Fireman was completed in July 1970.</i>
5 March 1972	Promoted to Leading Fireman, Operational <i>I was posted to an operational watch and served at all 3 stations in Blackpool.</i>
<b>Lancashire County Fire Brigade</b>	
1 April 1974	Promoted to Acting Sub Officer, Operational <i>Posted to Bispham Fire Station, Blackpool as Officer-in-Charge of watch.</i>
8 November 1974	Promoted to Sub Officer <i>Posted to Fleetwood Fire Station as Officer-in-Charge of watch.</i>
<b>Norfolk Fire Service</b>	
24 February 1975	Promoted to Station Officer, Assistant Training Officer <i>In the capacity of Assistant Training Officer</i>
30 June 1976	Appointed Officer-in-Charge, Great Yarmouth Station <i>In the rank of Station Officer.</i>
1 March 1978	Promoted to Assistant Divisional Officer. <i>Post of Deputy Divisional Commander, 'C' Division, Norfolk Fire Service.</i>
<b>Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service</b>	
1 June 1980	Promoted to Divisional Officer Grade II, Recruitment and Training Officer <i>Post of Recruitment and Training Officer with the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. Part of my duties included Senior Officer cover for the whole of the Cambridgeshire area and I was also a member of the Senior Management Team within the Fire and Rescue Service.</i>
<b>Greater Manchester County Fire Service</b>	
1 January 1983	Promoted to Divisional Officer Grade I, Senior Staff Officer <i>As Senior Staff Officer, I was Deputy to an Assistant Chief Officer and responsible for the day-to-day running of the Staff and Operations Department. Part of my reference included discipline and I performed the duties of the Brigade Presenting Officer at Disciplinary Tribunals. I was also responsible for the administrative functions of the Brigade including Brigade Orders, Home Office returns etc.</i>

23 January 1984	Appointed Deputy Divisional Commander, Divisional Officer Grade I <i>Transferred to the post of Deputy Divisional Commander, Greater Manchester County Fire Service, 'D' Division.</i>
1 March 1986	Promoted Senior Divisional Officer, Divisional Commander 'B' Division <i>Divisional Commander, 'B' Division, Greater Manchester County Fire Service.</i>
<b>Strathclyde Fire Brigade</b>	
1 May 1989	Promoted to Assistant Firemaster <i>Particular responsibility and reference for Operations</i>
1 January 1992	<i>Transferred to the post of Director of Fire Safety as Assistant Firemaster with specific responsibility for Fire Prevention and Fire Safety.</i>

<b>FIRE SERVICE COURSES</b>
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I have qualified in the following courses: -

March 1974	Operational Officers' Fire Prevention Course at Moreton-in-Marsh
March 1975	Experienced Junior Officers' Course at Moreton-in-Marsh
April 1975	General Instructors' Course at Moreton-in-Marsh
June 1976 and March 1977	Junior Officers' Advancement Course at Moreton-in-Marsh, Part A and Part B
November 1978	Radiation and Dangerous Substances Course, Moreton-in-Marsh
May 1979	Fire Prevention Inspecting Officers' Course, Moreton-in-Marsh
June 1980	Divisional Command Course, Fire Service Staff College, Dorking
January 1983	Brigade Command Course, Moreton-in-Marsh
April 1985	Ship and Port Firefighting Course Moreton-in-Marsh

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
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I have held all the key posts that are considered to be such in Fire Service terms and my career has given me a wide variety of experience from a small County Borough Brigade through large and small Shires, as well as a Metropolitan Brigade. In my previous service in Greater Manchester, I successfully held the posts of Senior Staff Officer and Divisional Commander, 2 of the most demanding jobs in the British Fire Service, especially in a Metropolitan Brigade and for 13 years I was an Assistant Firemaster in 2 major references in Strathclyde Fire Brigade, which is arguably the most complex Fire Service in Great Britain, if not Europe. Strathclyde Fire Brigade had at that time a uniformed establishment of 2,300 Wholetime, 640 Retained, 257 Volunteers 70 Control staff and 410 Support staff.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN LAST MY FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT
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When first appointed to Strathclyde, I was appointed as Head of Operations. My achievements in this reference included the setting up of a complete operational/technical information system throughout the Brigade as well as the setting up within the department of a 5 year plan to help in the purchase and replacement of equipment, predicting future trends and budgeting arrangements beyond the normal 12 month revenue cycle. As well as this, a number of project teams were set up at the instigation of myself to research various topics including the use of IT operationally, the upgrading of Brigade Control and the evaluation and purchase of new equipment including the changeover to a new Breathing Apparatus.

For just over 10 years I held the post of Director of Fire Safety, responsible for legislative enforcement and community fire safety for the whole Brigade. In that time I instituted a number of changes including an internal information/Brigade Order administrative system, a complete technical library for each Command and an updating of the existing Brigade HQ library. Each change has been designed and calculated to enhance the quality and delivery of service by the Brigade at the customer interface and improve the technical and engineering knowledge of fire safety personnel.

The Department carried the image of the Fire Brigade at the forefront and I was successful in promoting the concept of 'fire safe communities' as well as being responsible for the promotion of life safety concepts such as domestic smoke detectors and more latterly, residential sprinklers.

During my thirteen years in Strathclyde Fire Brigade I have been a member of the Brigade management team, working with other Principal Officer colleagues to achieve a multi-disciplinary approach to the overall management strategy, policy and planning process for the Brigade. I was also actively involved in the dynamic process of managing change. This has included both internal and external structural change e.g. change in Regional structure, change and re-structure of the Brigade, as well as changes at the professional and technical level e.g. introduction of new fire safety legislation, production of fire safety risk assessment procedures and criteria and the introduction of quality management concepts (performance indicators, best value etc.).

I have always been pro-active in my involvement with policy decision-making at both Brigade and National level. In this respect I advised both the Scottish Parliament and the UK Government on fire safety strategies including the introduction of new legislation and guidance and the risk assessed approach to fire safety. At one time I was heavily involved with the former Strathclyde Region forming corporate and strategic policy in such issues as Total Quality Management initiatives, Social Strategy, Community Safety etc. Also, I was directly involved in the introduction of the Prince's Trust and its implementation in the Glasgow area.

## ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

My First Class Honours Degree through the Open University followed a psychology 'line' but with a technological strand within it. The reason for this is that I have an interest in human performance and its interface between technology and systems. During this time I took an interest in the behaviour of people in fire and the interface between that behaviour in fire and life protection systems.

My PhD thesis took 7 years (part-time) to complete and was also done with The Open University. The title of the thesis was 'Stress in Fire-fighters - Situations, Reactions and Interactions'.

In July 2003 I became a Chartered Engineer by submission of a dissertation via The Engineering Council's mature candidate route. I am registered as a Chartered Engineer through the Energy Institute, registration number 543748.

I am also a Life Fellow of the Institute of Fire Safety Managers, Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers and Member of the Energy Institute.

I am a UKAS third party accredited competent fire risk assessor registered with Warrington Certification on their Fire Risk Assessors Certified Scheme (FRACS).

I am currently a registered competent fire risk assessor on the Register of Fire Risk Assessors of The Institute of Fire Safety Managers Nationally Accredited Fire Risk Assessors Register (NAFRAR).

## PUBLICATIONS

- 1 Various articles in professional journals.
- 2 Book "Airports and Aircraft Fire Protection, Fire Fighting and Rescue Techniques" (1990).
- 3 One chapter in "The Management of Disasters and their Aftermath" Editors W Wallace, J M Jowes and C L Cotton.

OTHER DETAILS
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### **INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS**

As a member of the Institution of Fire Engineers, I took part in Branch Committee work and I was a member of the International Council. I was Chairman of the Education and Technical Committee for 9 years and Chairman of the Education Committee. In February 1985 I was made a Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

I have been asked by various Educational Establishments and Professional Institutes at home and abroad to act as an Educational/Fire Engineer Advisor on courses varying from in-service training through HNC/HND to Graduate and Post Graduate Degrees. I have been an external advisor and examiner on the Fire Engineering Degree Courses at the University of Central Lancashire which I helped to set up and also played a leading part in the bringing of higher academic values and qualifications to the Fire Service College via the then Southbank Polytechnic. I have lectured and delivered papers on a wide range of subjects from community fire safety to fire service command and control.

I was heavily involved over 25 years and worked on and chaired various committees which are linked to fire engineering and education including the Fire Services Examination Board, Emergency Fire Service Lead Body (NVQs) and the Fire Industry's Lead Body (NVQs). I have also been instrumental in setting up an accreditation and validation system which is relevant throughout the world. This has been done via the Institution of Fire Engineers, Fire Services and other related bodies.

In 1999 I was elected as International President of the Institution of Fire Engineers. This is a very prestigious position in the world of fire engineering to be conferred and it not only marked my own personal achievements in this arena but also brought great prestige and honour to Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

### **INSTITUTE OF FIRE SAFETY MANAGERS**

I am a Life Fellow of the Institute of Fire Safety Managers and for many years and have acted on their behalf in a number of roles. I acted as the Secretary General of the Institute for the past 6 years and at present time I am the Institute's Chairman and represent them on many formal committees at national level.

### **REPRESENTATION ON OTHER COMMITTEES**

I have served on a number of Fire Service related Committees, mostly on fire safety issues as a representative of the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association (CACFOA), the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) or the IFE and I

was active at the highest level on these committees.

I Chaired the CACFOA Fire Safety Technical Committee (Scotland) and I was involved in ensuring that this committee works towards a Scottish perspective in all matters relating to fire safety in its future involvement with the new Scottish Parliament. In this capacity, I also acted as an advisor to various other national Committees, e.g. BASIS, Association of District Councils etc. I was also a nominated advisor on the Scottish Building Standards Committee.

I have also act as an external examiner for the Fire Protection Association for their European Diploma in Fire Safety Studies.

I have delivered a number of papers at Conferences throughout the world including a Fire Safety paper at the 'Fire Frontier 94' Conference in Tokyo, the 1995 Hong Kong Fire Conference and the 1998 NFPA conference in the USA. I have also delivered papers at international conferences in Sri Lanka, Bahrain and Australia. The paper I delivered in Bahrain was formally published in a Middle East fire journal.

I am a member of, and advisor to, the Underwriter's Laboratories Fire Council which is a not for profit organisation based in the USA and this body deals with standards and testing of products etc. vis a vis safety.

I am a member of the British Standards Institute committee for fire alarms and detection equipment (FSH/12).

#### PRESENT POSITION

At the present time I have my own limited company 'Flamerisk Safety Solutions Ltd.' and am the Director of the company. I have been employed as a fire consultant by various companies since I started and have also been involved directly in delivering courses to the Brunei Fire Service as well as being involved in fire related activities in a variety of countries worldwide.

Flamerisk Safety Solutions Ltd. delivers an array of services including fire safety and fire safety engineering, regulation and litigation issues relating to fire and fire safety, interpretation of fire law and regulations and negotiation with local authorities and fire services, fire investigation, fire training (practical and management based), lectures etc. and disability access. It has won a number of large and prestigious contracts with major organizations.

My company Flamerisk Safety Solutions Ltd. also delivers Personal Emergency Evacuation Planning (PEEPs) specialising in emergency evacuation planning for disabled and vulnerable people.

I have been a visiting Lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire where I lectured on the MSc course in Fire Engineering with specific emphasis on qualitative risk assessment.

I have sat as an advisor on the Fire Service College/UCLAN Partnership group and I have also been an External Examiner representing Ed-Excel for these two organizations. I have also been an external examiner and advisor to UCLAN on fire engineering degrees delivered in this country as well as in the Middle and Far East.

I have also been an external examiner with Coventry University for fire service diplomas in conjunction with the Fire Service College and also advisor to Wolverhampton University.

I sit on a number of advisory and technical committees.