



Local Government Act 1972

A Meeting of the Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Monday 21 September 2020 at 10.00 a.m. to consider the following business:-

PART A

1. Declarations of interest, if any

If Members are aware of a private or personal conflict of interest in relation to any items on the Agenda, this should be disclosed at this stage or when the conflict of interest arises during consideration of an item in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2020 (Pages 5 - 8)
3. Current Correspondence - Report of Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Service Support (Pages 9 - 20)
4. Notes of the Audit and Risk Committee - Report of Chair (Pages 21 - 24)
5. Notes of the Performance Committee - Report of Chair (Pages 25 - 26)
6. Performance Report Quarter One 2020/21 - Report of Area Manager Community Risk Management (Pages 27 - 34)
7. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group Update - Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Pages 35 - 38)
8. Grant funding for Fire Protection - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Pages 39 - 42)
9. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services Update - Report of Area Manager Assets and Assurance (Pages 43 - 46)
10. Fire Safety - Government Consultation - Report of the Area Manager Community Risk Management (Pages 47 - 106)
11. Statement of Assurance 2019/20 - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Pages 107 - 124)

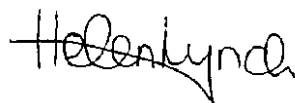
12. Arson Reduction Team Progress - Report of the Area Manager
Community Risk Management (Pages 125 - 130)
13. Land at Fylands Bridge Bishop Auckland - Report of the Head of
Corporate Resources (Pages 131 - 132)
14. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the
meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration
15. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the
discussion of items containing exempt information

PART B

Items during which it is considered the meeting is not likely to be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information).

16. Impact of Covid-19 on Sickness Absence - Report of the Area
Manager Assets and Assurance and Head of People and
Organisational Development (Pages 133 - 142)
17. Staffing Arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe - Report of the
Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Pages 143 - 158)
18. Public Service Pensions Consultation Update - Report of the
Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Pages 159 - 164)
19. Review of the role of Police and Crime Commissioners - Report of the
Chief Fire Officer (Pages 165 - 178)
20. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the
meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

PURSUANT to the provisions of the above named Act, **I HEREBY SUMMON
YOU** to attend the said meeting



H LYNCH

Clerk to the Combined Fire Authority
for County Durham and Darlington

County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

**TO: The Members of the Combined Fire Authority for County Durham
and Darlington**

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, J Bell, R Bell, P Brookes, C Carr, D Freeman, D Hicks, A Laing, L Maddison, R Manchester, L Marshall, C Potts, G Richardson, J Robinson, E Scott, J Shuttleworth, D Stoker, F Tinsley and J Turnbull.

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors H Crumbie, B Jones, G Lee and A J Scott.

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At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held remotely, on **Friday 24 July 2020** at 10.00 am.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors A Batey, D Bell, R Bell, C Carr, D Freeman, A Laing, L Maddison, J Maitland, R Manchester, L Marshall, C Potts, J Robinson, E Scott, J Shuttleworth D Stoker, F Tinsley J Turnbull.

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors H Crumbie, B Jones and G Lee.

Apologies for absence were received from J Bell, D Hicks and G Richardson.

Independent Person:

A Simpson and N Johnson.

The Chair welcomed all to the first remote live meeting.

The Chair welcomed Steve Helps DCFO to his first meeting.

The Chair thanked all members of staff for their work through Covid-19, Sarah Natrass for her work Chairing the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG), Stuart Errington for his work keeping the Members informed; for his work Chairing the LRF, Co-chairing the Regional Coordinating Group and with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Gold Group. .

Cllr Laing proposed a letter to be sent out to all staff thanking them for all their hard work throughout Covid-19, which was agreed.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 March 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

A3 Current Correspondence

The Authority received an update from the Assistant Chief Fire Officer in relation to current correspondence received from government and other bodies relevant to the Authority and the status of each (for copy see file of minutes).

A4 Review of the Constitution

The Authority considered a joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Clerk which sought approval for the proposed amendments to the Authority's Constitution (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

- a) The contents of the report and suggested amendments to the Constitution were noted
- b) The constitution was approved

A5 Performance Report Quarter Four 2019/20

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Performance and Programme board which presented a summary of the organisational performance at the end of the fourth quarter of the 2019/20 financial year (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr Carr asked for the service versus national analysis to be presented to the next Performance Committee meeting.

Cllr Lee queried the percentage of targets achieved. The Chief Fire Officer commented that the targets that were set were realistic but challenging. The Service sets deliberately challenging targets in order to drive strong performance. The performance management regime that is in place ensures that any targets that aren't achieved are scrutinised by both officers and through the Performance Committee so that action can be taken.

Cllr Bell requested that sickness figures were closely monitored moving forward.

Cllr Batey noted that Covid-19 related absences i.e. shielding would distort data and asked for Covid-19 related sickness to be extrapolated for the next report.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A6 Estates Update

The Authority considered a report of the Head of Corporate Resources which updated members on the latest position in relation to the Estates Improvement Programme (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr Jones noted the brilliant progress being made at Darlington station. Cllr Lee noted the progress that had been made at the station and how complementary the staff had been of the temporary accommodation.

Cllr Shuttleworth noted the collaboration between NEAS and the Service at Sedgefield and questioned whether or not a request to collaborate might be made by Durham Constabulary at a later date. The Head of Corporate Services noted that discussions had taken place with both NEAS and Durham Constabulary in relation to collaboration at the station.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A7 The Service's response to Covid- 19

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which informed members of the activity the Service had been undertaking during the Covid-19 Pandemic (for copy see file of minutes).

Members queried the additional funding from the Home Office and the Treasurer noted the funding was in line with the Service's current predictions in relation to additional costs.

Cllr Shuttleworth queried mental wellbeing of staff working from home. The Chief Fire Officer noted the Service's plan on staff returning to work.

Cllr Tinsley encouraged the Chief Fire Officer to continue to lobby the Home Office for funding moving forward.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A8 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

A9 Exclusion of the public

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

PART B

B10 Business Case – Service Restructure

The Authority considered a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer which provided members with details of a proposed restructure which will ensure the Service is well placed to address the challenges faced over the medium term (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

- a) The report was noted
- b) The revised structure was approved

B11 Fire Fatality Presentation

Area Manager: Projects delivered a presentation to members in relation to a fire at Easington.

B12 Any Other Business

The Chief Fire Officer noted the statement made in the House of Commons on 22 July in relation to Police and Crime Commissioners.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

CLOSE OF MEETING



Current Correspondence: July 2020 – September 2020

Release Date	Subject	Summary	Action CFA Report	Action CFA Response	Action Info
27/07/2020	Letter from Sir Thomas Winsor WS, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services	Letter asking for advice and assistance in connection with preparation of the annual assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of fire and rescue authorities in England which is a requirement of section 28 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to submit to the Home Secretary and lay before Parliament. Attached at appendix 1			√
04/08/2020	Email from PCC Review Team, Home Office.	The Minister of State for Crime and Policing laid a Written Ministerial Statement in Parliament on 22 July, setting out plans to conduct a two-stage internal review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners. Attached at appendix 2 and 3		√	
12/08/2020	Letter from Zoe Billingham, HMICFRS	Letter giving detail on the inspection of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic of the fire and rescue sector in England. Attached at appendix 4			√



Promoting improvements
in policing and fire & rescue
services to make everyone safer

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Email: tom.winsor@hmicfrs.gov.uk

Sir Thomas Winsor ws
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and
Rescue Services

Chief Fire Officers, England
Chief Executive, England
Chair, Fire Services Management Committee
Police, fire and crime commissioners
Mayor, Greater Manchester
Deputy Mayor for Fire, London
Chairs, Fire and Rescue Authorities
Chair, National Fire Chiefs Council
General Secretary, Fire Brigades Union
Chair, Fire Standards Board
Chief Executive, Fire & Rescue Services Association
Chief Executive, Fire Officers' Association

27 July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

HM CHIEF INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND

This letter asks for your advice and assistance in connection with my preparation of the annual assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of fire and rescue authorities in England. This is the report which I am required by section 28 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to submit to the Home Secretary and lay before Parliament. I shall greatly value your views.

2. Part 1 of the annual report provides my assessment of the state of fire and rescue authorities in England. Whilst the experiences and events of the last four months in particular have stimulated many thoughts on what I ought to include, I should appreciate your input, to ensure the report concentrates on the things which matter most.
3. To this end, I should be grateful for your views on the following questions in particular:
 - (a) what do you think are the most pressing areas for reform in the fire sector;
 - (b) where do you think the fire sector ought to be in 2025;
 - (c) what changes have occurred – both locally and nationally – in response to the first round of our inspections; what effect have they had, or do you expect them to have;
 - (d) COVID-19 tested the resilience of every service; what went well and what could be improved;
 - (e) what short-, medium- and long-term changes do you think COVID-19 will have on individual services and the sector;

(f) what has your organisation done to implement the learning and recommendations made in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's Phase 1 report (published on 30 October 2019); and

(g) what are your current people priorities, and what challenges are you facing to implement your people strategy?

4. The plan is to publish the annual assessment in early 2021. It would be greatly appreciated if I could have your views no later than Friday 21 August 2020.

5. If you have any queries about this request, and indeed wider views on what I should include in my assessment, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sir Thomas Winsor', written in a cursive style.

Sir Thomas Winsor ws

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services

From: PCC Review <pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk>

Date: 4 August 2020 at 19:37:52 BST

To: PCC Review <pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk>

Subject: PCC Review - written submissions

Dear colleagues,

As you will be aware, the Minister of State for Crime and Policing laid a Written Ministerial Statement in Parliament on Wednesday 22 July, setting out plans to conduct a two-stage internal review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners. This review aligns with the Government's manifesto commitment to strengthen the accountability of PCCs and expand their role.

After eight years it is right that the Government steps back and considers how the PCC model can continue to evolve. It is important that PCCs are strong, visible leaders in the fight against crime and have the legitimacy and tools to hold their police forces to account effectively. While part one of the review will be largely focused on strengthening how the current model operates, it will also have some scope to consider how we set out our long-term ambitions on fire governance reform ahead of next year's elections.

We are keen to engage with key policing and fire leaders and wider partners as part of this review. I am writing to invite you to share your views and reflections. To help guide your thinking, the attached Annex provides an overview of the key themes we will be exploring. The review team will gather evidence on these issues in their research, so please consider them as a broad framework for the areas we would like to examine.

Should you wish to make a written submission on behalf of your organisation, please send your submission to pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk by 4 September 2020.

Should you require any further background, please refer to the Terms of Reference attached to this letter or contact the review team at this email address to discuss.

Kind regards,

PCC Review Team

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Annex A Review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners

Part One – Key Research Questions

This following sets out a broad, high-level sense of the areas we want to cover in Part One and is by no means exhaustive. We welcome any suggested additions within the remit of the review's terms of reference.

- 1) **How to reinforce and sharpen the accountability of PCCs to the communities they serve, including how to raise the profile of the PCC model and improve the ease with which the public can access information about their PCC.**
 - i. How effectively do PCCs engage the public?
 - ii. How do we ensure the public can more easily hold their PCC to account at the ballot box, for reducing crime and delivering an effective and efficient police force?

- 2) **How to ensure that PCCs have sufficient resilience in the event that they cannot undertake their role, by considering existing arrangements for appointing Deputies.**
 - i. Is the current model resilient enough to hold up when things go wrong?

- 3) **How to improve the current scrutiny model for PCCs, including the provision of common quality standards and considering the role of Panel chairs.**
 - i. Are the right checks and balances in place to make PCC-led accountability work?
 - ii. Do police and crime panels have the right skills, tools and powers to hold PCCs to account?
 - iii. Should a system of recall be introduced for PCCs, and if so, what should be the trigger mechanism?

- 4) **The effectiveness of the current PCC and Chief Constable oversight dynamic, including consideration of the process for the suspension/dismissal of Chief Constables and reviewing the Policing Protocol.**
 - i. Are PCC powers around the removal and appointment of chief constables correctly calibrated?
 - ii. Is the balance right in the PCC/CC relationship? And what changes might be needed to the Policing Protocol?

- 5) **Whether any steps are needed to strengthen accountability or clarity of roles within the mayoral PCC model, learning from the transfer of PCC and Fire & Rescue Authority (FRA) functions to mayors.** This will lay the foundations for our longer-term ambition to increase the number of mayors with responsibility for public safety, which will be outlined in the forthcoming Local Recovery and Devolution White Paper.
 - i. What do you see as the strategic benefits of having a single, elected and accountable leader, who is responsible for a range of public safety functions?
 - ii. What are the opportunities and issues with transferring PCC and FRA functions to mayors?
 - iii. What are the lessons learned to date from transferring PCC and FRA functions to mayoral models?

6) How we set out our long-term ambition on fire governance reform ahead of the May 2021 PCC elections.

- i. What are the benefits and challenges of the current model for transferring fire governance to PCCs?
- ii. How can we strengthen the accountability and transparency of fire governance?
- iii. How can we strengthen and clarify the distinction between strategic and operational planning in fire?
- iv. Could governance change help maximise collaboration between policing and fire?
- v. What are the benefits of having a range of services and strategic planning under one elected individual?

In helping us prepare for Part Two, we are also interested in understanding if the levers currently available to PCCs are sufficient to allow them to cut crime effectively in their force areas.

The following areas are explicitly out of scope for part-one:

- Wholesale reform of the existing scrutiny model through Police and Crime Panels
- Consideration of PCCs' role in reoffender management and wider justice devolution
- Substantive electoral reform (Cabinet Office lead)

Neither Part one nor Part two of the review will consider a wholly new governance model for policing (mayoral devolution aside) or examine the 43 police force model.



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Zoë Billingham BA Hons (Oxon)
Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire and
Rescue Services

Chief fire officers
Chairs of fire and rescue authorities
Police, fire and crime commissioners
Lead fire authority members
Locally elected mayors
Other FRS interested parties

12 August 2020

Dear Colleague,

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COVID-19 INSPECTION UPDATE

I write to provide further detail on our inspection of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic of the fire and rescue sector in England, confirmed by Sir Thomas Winsor in his letter of 5 August 2020 following the commission from the Home Secretary.

2. The timetable for the inspection has now been finalised and dates are set out in the table at Annex A. Every effort has been made to identify appropriate inspection dates for services, however please contact your respective chief of staff (Mick Mason or Damian Henderson) in the first instance if you have any questions about the timing of our activity.

3. As you know, the inspection will be conducted entirely remotely. There will be a maximum of seven interviews, each lasting approximately one hour, that will be carried out as early as practicable in the two-week period after the dates stated in Annex A. Service liaison leads will now be in touch to make arrangements with you.

4. More information will follow this letter regarding the data request and self-assessment survey. We are also hosting an online chiefs and chairs event. This will take place on 20 August 2020 at 2pm and you should have received an invitation. If not, please contact Steve Polly at stephen.polly@hmicfrs.gov.uk. This will be your opportunity to raise any questions or concerns you might have about the upcoming inspection. A separate event for service liaison officers will be held on 27 August.

5. As ever, if you require further information in the meantime, please contact our portfolio director Laura Gibb at lauraalicegibb@hmicfrs.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular area with a light grey grid background containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoë Billingham".

Zoë Billingham
HM Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services

Annex A

Week	Date	Services
1	w/c 7 September 2020	Cumbria, Kent
2	w/c 14 September 2020	Northamptonshire, South Yorkshire, West Midlands
3	w/c 21 September 2020	Cheshire, Hertfordshire, London, Surrey
4	w/c 28 September 2020	Cornwall, Lancashire, Merseyside, Oxfordshire, Tyne and Wear, Warwickshire
5	w/c 5 October 2020	Avon, Cambridgeshire, Hereford and Worcester, Lincolnshire, West Sussex, West Yorkshire
6	w/c 12 October 2020	Bedfordshire, Humberside, Isles of Scilly, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Royal Berkshire
7	w/c 19 October 2020	Derbyshire, Dorset and Wiltshire, Norfolk, Shropshire, Staffordshire
8	w/c 26 October 2020	Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Leicestershire
9	w/c 2 November 2020	Buckinghamshire, Durham and Darlington, East Sussex, Essex County, Greater Manchester, Suffolk
10	w/c 9 November 2020	Cleveland, Devon and Somerset, Gloucestershire, North Yorkshire

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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

21 September 2020

Notes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 28 July 2020

Report of the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee

Members Present: Cllr J Turnbull in the Chair
Cllrs B Avery, D Bell, L Marshall and G Lee

Apologies: Cllr E Scott

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 28 July 2020.

Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2020

2. Members were presented with details of the audit completion report which summarised the audit conclusions and noted signoff would be delayed until information was received in relation to the pension fund and whole of government accounts.

The Committee **noted** the Audit Completion Report and that it remained open pending sign off by the pension fund auditor and completion of the whole of government accounts.

Statement of Accounts year ended 31 March 2020

3. Members received a presentation on the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

The Committee **approved** the Statement of Accounts for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020

4. Members were presented with details of the 2019/2020 Annual Governance Statement.

The Committee **approved** the 2019/2020 Annual Governance Statement.

Internal Audit Progress Report for Quarter ended 31 March 2020

5. The Committee were updated on work undertaken by Internal Audit between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. Progress against planned work, amendments to the annual audit plan and the audit recommendations were considered. It was noted that there were no reports issued with a limited assurance opinion and no unplanned work carried out this quarter.

The Committee **noted** the report.

Fraud and Corruption Annual Report

6. Members were presented with details of the advice and assurance provided regarding the work being undertaken within the Authority in seeking to identify, control and prevent fraud and corruption.

The Committee **noted** the progress made and assurances provided in relation to the Authority's anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements.

Annual Review of the System of Internal Audit

7. Members were presented with details of the annual review of the system of internal audit.

The Committee **considered** and **noted** the findings and conclusions of the 2019/2020 review of the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit.

Annual Internal Audit Opinion Report 2019/2020

8. Members received details of the work carried out by Internal Audit during 2019/2020. Internal Audit had issued a moderate overall assurance opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control operating across the Authority in 2019/2020. Members were informed that a moderate overall assurance opinion should be regarded as positive.

The Committee **considered** the Annual Internal Report and the overall opinion provided on the adequacy of effectiveness of the Authority's control environment for 2019/2020.

PART B

Internal Audit Outstanding Actions (appendix 3)

9. Members **noted** the outstanding actions.

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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

21 September 2020

Notes of the Performance Committee 3 September 2020

Report of the Chair of the Performance Committee

Members Present: Cllr C Carr in the Chair
R Manchester, D Stoker and G Lee

Apologies: Cllr J Bell

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Performance Committee held on 3 September 2020.

Oracle Update

2. K Lazzari gave a verbal update on the performance of Oracle. Teams at DCC and CDDFRS (ICT DEBS and Oracle) had been working together in relation accessibility of DCC systems. Significant progress had been made

Presentation – iPads, Benefits and Future Opportunities

3. Members received a presentation on the introduction of iPads, their benefits and future opportunities.

The committee **noted** the presentation.

Performance Report Quarter One 2020/21

4. The organisational performance for quarter one were presented to the committee. Overall 70% of the strategic PIs met or exceeded their target level. The key areas of performance where performance was strong or where additional work is required to secure improvement were discussed with the members.

The committee **noted** the report.

Sickness Absence Performance

5. Members were given an update on sickness for 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 and 1 April 2020 – 30 June 2020. Sickness by staff group was discussed and in relation to Covid-19.

The Committee **noted** and **commented** on the report.

Letters of Appreciation

6. There had been 10 letters received. The Committee considered the various letters or appreciation that had been submitted to the service

The Committee **noted** the report.

Part B

Formal Complaints

7. The committee **noted** the report.



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

21 September 2020

Performance Report – Quarter One 2020/21

Report of Area Manager, Community Risk Management

Purpose of Report

1. This report presents a summary of organisational performance at the end of the first quarter of the 2020/21 financial year.

Background

2. Both operational and corporate performance is monitored and managed internally via the monthly Performance & Programme Board (PPB) and Service Leadership Team (SLT) forums. Members of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) consider performance on a quarterly basis at meetings of the Performance Committee and the full CFA.
3. A comprehensive suite of performance indicators (PIs) are employed to measure both operational and corporate performance. Targets are set on an annual basis against SMART criteria and take account of longer-term trends and the potential for spikes in performance.
4. This robust approach to performance management enables action to be taken at an early stage if performance is not meeting expectations and provides assurance that resources are being directed towards the areas of greatest risk.
5. In addition to setting a target level for relevant PIs, the Service also employs a system of tolerance limit triggers that allow under or over performance to be highlighted to the PPB when the PI goes beyond set tolerances, which vary depending on the indicator. Each PI has a total of four tolerance limit triggers; two each for both under and over performance.
6. Performance is presented from two perspectives: by comparison against the annual target levels, and by comparison with performance at the same point last year.

Overview of performance across all indicator categories

7. At the end of quarter one 2020/21, across both operational and corporate areas of the Service, 69% of the strategic PIs met or exceeded their target level, while 70% of the strategic PIs either maintained or improved when compared to performance last year.

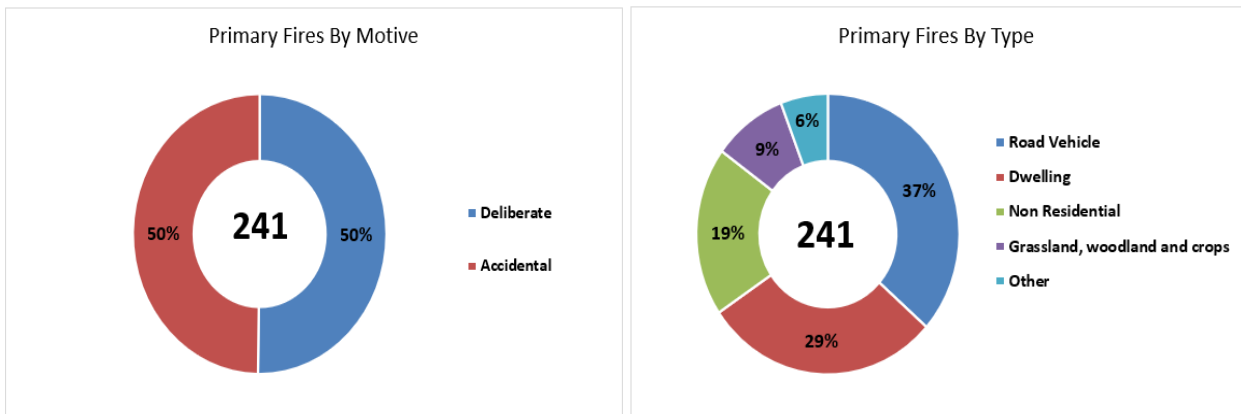
Performance reporting by exception

8. The following sections of the report present details of specific operational and corporate indicators where performance was notably strong or where additional work is required to secure improvement. An explanatory narrative is provided for each PI group along with information about how performance compares to the annual target and the previous year.

Prevention

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q1 2020/21 Actual	Q1 Target	Actual vs Target	2019/20 Q1 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
PI 01 - Deaths Arising from Accidental Fires in Dwellings	Down	0	0	0%	0	0%
PI 02 – Primary Fires	Down	241	263	8.4%	251	4%
PI 03 – Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires	Down	58	65	10.8%	60	3.3%
PI 04 - Injuries Arising from Accidental Dwelling Fires	Down	8	8	0%	5	-60%
PI 05 - Total Secondary Fires	Down	858	719	-19.4%	861	0.3%
PI 07 – Number of Safe & Wellbeing Visits	Up	581	600	-3.1%	5217	-88.7%
PI 42 - Proportion of Safe & Wellbeing Visits to High Risk People/Properties	Up	69.6%	80%	-13%	82.7%	-15.8%

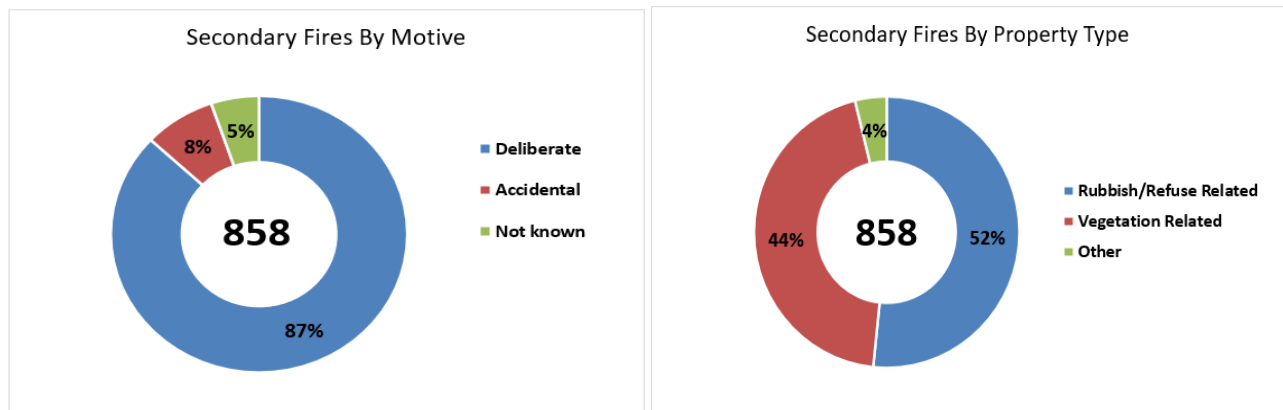
PI01 – There have been no deaths from accidental dwelling fires (ADFs) in quarter one of 2020/21. However, on 2 September 2020, the Coroner ruled that the incident in Easington in March 2020 was an ADF fatality, this information will now be updated against last year’s reports. Also, the potential fire fatality from the ADF in Kelloe in December 2019 is still waiting a verdict in court. Community Risk Management and Emergency Response managers continue to scrutinise fatal and serious injury incident data. This data is then used alongside local risk profile information to target the delivery of prevention advice. Human factors such as distraction and falling asleep continue to be key factors in fatalities and serious injuries and these areas are emphasised during SWVs.



PI02 - The number of primary fires are currently below the target and have shown reductions consistently across the last three months. Approximately 37% of these fires are linked to motor vehicles with 29% being in dwellings. A slight increase in fires in garden sheds has been noted and also a reduction in fires in the workplace which is linked to reduced business activity during COVID-19. The majority of fires occur in the late afternoon into the evening. Key areas are Central Ward and Chilton.

PI03 - The number of accidental dwelling fires over this period is slightly better than the previous year over the same period. Fires in the kitchen are the main location for these fires. There have been a number of fires with lone persons over pensionable age and linked to distraction. No significant geographical areas are highlighted by exception. There has been a slight drop in the number of fires where single parents with dependant children are present. CRM will refresh advice for crews to deliver SWVs around safe escape behaviours. We will increase our safety messages around kitchen safety and escape behaviours in forms of media which specifically target elderly people as well as increasing social media posts with these messages.

PI04 – There have been 8 injuries resulting from accidental dwelling fires this period. This is up slightly on last year where there were 5. The majority of the injuries were caused by minor burns or minor smoke inhalation. Several of the minor injuries were caused by occupants attempting to fight the fire. Incident data shows us that distraction involving cooking appliances has accounted for the majority of ADFs. CRM will refresh advice for crews to deliver SWVs around safe escape behaviours. We will also step up social media posts around kitchen safety and escape behaviours.



PI05 - The number of secondary fires is in line with the same period last year however is higher than the predicted target. There has been notable reduction of fires in the Eden Hill, Middridge, Easington Colliery and Dawdon areas. However, increases in Haswell and Wingate areas. The majority for fires has been deliberate and common types include loose

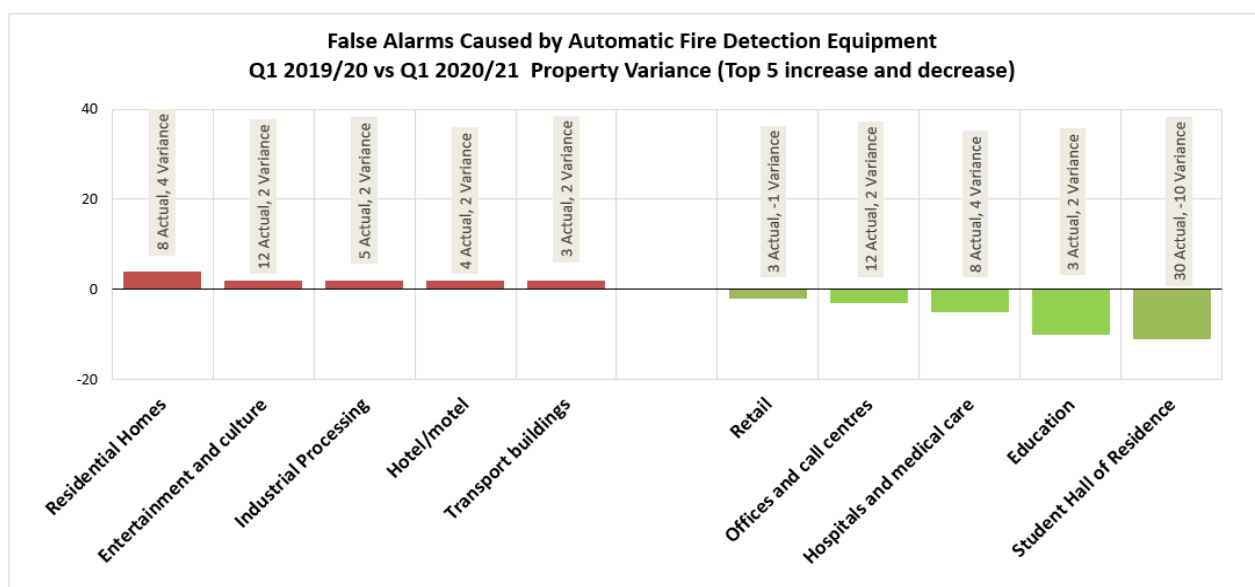
refuse, fencing and scrubland. Fires predominantly occur late afternoon into the evening. Crews have been conducting environmental audits to assist with the location and removal of fly tipping in partnership with the local authority.

PI07 – As lockdown restriction due to Covid-19 commenced in March with the understanding that the pandemic would have considerable impact across the year, the targets for 2020/21 were adjusted to make them realistic under the circumstances while remaining challenging to maintain delivery and reduce risk. Community Risk Officers continued to deliver physical visits to support the most vulnerable people but all other physical Safe and Wellbeing Visits to homes were stopped in line with national guidance, however crews commenced telephone Safe and Wellbeing risk assessment towards the end of this quarter. Crews have also been conducting visits where there has been a significant risk of arson and have been installing fire bags and additional alarms where required. Lower risk community members have also been able to receive smoke alarms via delivery to provide safety equipment within national guidance.

Protection

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q1 2020/21 Actual	Q1 Target	Actual vs Target	2019/20 Q1 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
PI 10a - Primary Fires in Non-Domestic Premises	Down	16	27	40.7%	28	42.9%
PI 14 - False Alarms Caused by Automatic Fire Detection Equipment	Down	129	169	23.7%	154	16.2%
PI 17 – Number of Fire Safety Audits	Up	358	276	29%	505	-29.1%

PI14 – The number of occurrences of false alarms caused by automatic detection apparatus are below the expected target. Main areas linked to this are reduced businesses operating during the COVID-19 lockdown and the revised unwanted fire signal policy. There are no significant locations by exception.

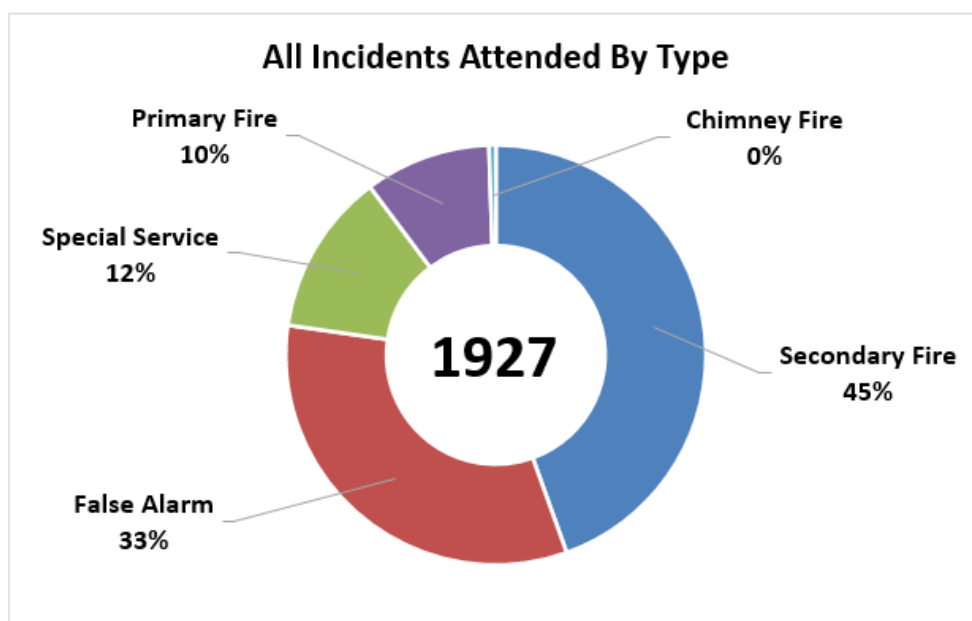


PI17 – As with PI07, the targets for PI17 fire safety audits have also been adjusted for 2020/21 to reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. During this quarter physical inspections were stopped in line with national guidance. However, the central business fire safety team have been conducting ‘desktop audits’ over the telephone on key premises such as care homes and schools which has provided assurance that necessary adjustments have been made in their risk assessments to reflect the potential of reduced staff who were isolating or shielding, to ensure the safety of elderly residents and students. Due to the reduced time taken for desktop audits compared to physical inspections, the target for Q1 has been exceeded, however it is anticipated that this rate of delivery will slow when physical inspections recommence.

Response

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q1 2020/21 Actual	Q1 Target	Actual vs Target	2019/20 Q1 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
Total Emergency Calls Received (including EMR)		4337			4130	-5%
Total Incidents (excluding EMR)		1927			1960	1.7%
Total Fires		1109			1127	1.6%
Total False Alarms		631			572	-10.3%
Total Special Services (excluding EMR)		187			261	28.4%
Total Road Traffic Collisions		31			70	55.7%
Total Emergency Medical Response (EMR)		0			14	100%
PI 06 – Number of Response Standards Met	Up	5	6	-16.7%	5	0%

Total incidents (excluding EMR)



PI06 – There have been 5 out of 6 response standards met during this period which is in line with the same period last year however improvement has been noted each month of

this reporting year. The response standard missed is linked to attendance at non-domestic property fires. These have been reached within the 11-minute response standard but have missed attendance within the 8-minute response standard. On analysis, those incidents which did not achieve the 8-minute non-domestic property response standard have been located beyond the predicted 8-minute response isochrone and thus appliances would require more than 8 minutes to reach their locations.

Total False Alarms – Total false alarms have seen an increase of 10% when compared to the same period last year. The main impact upon this has been the ‘lockdown’ restrictions in response to the COVID 19 pandemic and the closure of local waste disposal and recycling centres across both Durham and Darlington. This has led to an increase of calls categorised as controlled burning, where residents have taken to burning waste in gardens. These are consequently recorded as false alarm good intent following assessment by fire crews.

Workforce

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q1 2020/21 Actual	Q1 Target	Actual vs Target	2019/20 Q1 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
PI 40 - All Staff Sickness	Down	1.45	1.5	3.3%	1.54	5.8%
PI 69 – Number of Accidents to Personnel	Down	2	4	50%	4	50%

Commentary:

PI40 – Overall, the number of shifts lost this year has decreased by approximately 5% from the reported figure at the same time last year. All management indicators are showing improvement on last year. Whilst it is pleasing to report that WT, FDO/DD and Control have seen a reduction in shifts lost, there have been small increases in Non-uniformed and RDS.

The indicators include any COVID-19 related absence where an employee has either had symptoms themselves or have tested positive for the virus. This absence has been included as the employee has been unwell and unable to attend work due to their illness. All other C-19 related absence has been removed. This includes shifts lost for shielding employees and those self-isolating due to other household members having symptoms or as they have been contacted by test and trace.

Over the reporting period, 1083.7 shifts have been lost to C-19 in all staff categories. Only 11 % of these have been included in the above performance indicator. Short term absence has reduced overall by 40% compared with the same reporting quarter last year,

PI69 – It is really pleasing to be able to report for the second month in a row that there have been zero accidents to personnel reported. For the first quarterly reporting period, we have had two accidents to personnel reported. These were both minor burns occurring at the Service Training Centre. Both accidents have been fully investigated. Improvement actions focused on increasing student awareness of the safety requirements around all live fire training.

Finance & Governance

Performance Indicator	Objective	Q1 2020/21 Actual	Q1 Target	Actual vs Target	2019/20 Q1 Actual	Actual vs Previous Year
PI 34 - % of Invoices paid within 30 days	Up	99.7%	95%	4.9%	94.4%	5.6%

Recommendations

9. Members are requested to:

- a. **Note** the content of the report;
- b. **Comment** on the reported performance.

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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

21 September 2020

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group Update

Report of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion

Purpose of Report

1. To provide members with an overview of the work carried out by the Service's Equality Diversity and Inclusion Group (EDIG).

Background

2. As part of the approach to developing services and improving engagement with stakeholders, the Authority has sought to 'champion' particular areas of work through the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) Member Champion roles.
3. The Member Champion roles provide the Service with an opportunity to work closely with individual members to help develop the services provided and to engage with local communities, staff, councillors and other stakeholders through a closely aligned officer and member relationship.
4. Since appointment to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Member Champion role, Councillor Batey has been supported by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) in her capacity as strategic lead for the development of EDI across the organisation.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group Update

5. County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) has an EDI Strategy and action plan. The EDIG monitors progress against the action plan.
6. At the Authority meeting in March it was reported that in collaboration with Durham University Business School (DUBS), our third culture survey was due to be launched in May 2020, however due to COVID-19 and the impact this has had on resources within DUBS this has been delayed until Spring 2021. The survey gathers responses from

staff on the impact of workplace factors on employees, in particular perceptions of fairness and how this affects service delivery to the public. The aim of the survey is to ascertain how key measures used have changed since the last survey in 2018 and to investigate factors that are having an impact on our staff and which were identified in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) report, to identify priorities for action. with the aim of increasing the understanding of the results to enable the implementation of targeted improvements.

7. In addition, it was reported that training on the appraisal process was to be delivered to all personnel in a leadership capacity at the Leadership Forums in March. Due to COVID-19 the Leadership Forums were delayed, however, to ensure our continued engagement and the communication of key messages to staff, the Leadership Forums were delivered virtually. The appraisal training was redesigned and delivered virtually to provide leaders with the skills to conduct an honest and robust appraisal which will help develop a positive culture in line with our expected values and behaviours.
8. Following the Service's move towards recovery from the COVID-19 response phase, the Recovery Coordination Group was established to lead the transition of the Service to its 'new normal'. An Equality Analysis was conducted on our recovery plan to ensure any equality issues identified could be addressed when the plan was implemented. As a result of the analysis, the Service will provide health and wellbeing advice, support services and Occupational Health reviews to address any detrimental impact COVID-19 has had on their wellbeing and mental health.
9. At the last meeting of the EDIG in June, a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) session was delivered by the Religion and Belief Champion to refresh the knowledge and understanding of the members, this session was circulated across the Service to enhance the knowledge and understanding of all staff.
10. The Service produced a video which was communicated via social media to support International Womens Day on 8 March. The theme for this year's campaign was entitled 'Each for Equal' which highlighted that an equal world is an enabled world.
11. The Gender champion attended a national conference which celebrated and explored women leading the way in 'Making a Difference' in society and the workplace. The conference specifically included a session on 'Period Power' which provided alternative feminine hygiene provision samples, these are being reviewed by our operational staff to identify whether they will enhance our current provision.
12. Members of the EDIG attended the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Black Lives Matter conference hosted by the Asian Fire Services Association (AFSA) which discussed the response of the FRS regarding recent events. The Service communicated a message of support to all staff in response to Black Lives Matters. The BAME champions will assist in the development of a positive action strategy to assist the Service in the recruitment, retention and progression of staff with protected characteristics.
13. To demonstrate the Service as an inclusive and supportive organisation and employer, the Service promoted awareness of key dates for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) and Gender Reassignment community via social media which

included the Stonewall Riot Anniversary, Lesbian Visibility Day, International Transgender Day, Zero Discrimination Day, International Non-binary Day and International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHoBiT).

14. The Service supported 'Pride' month in June although the local 'Pride' events were cancelled due to COVID-19. Staff including members of the Service Leadership Team (SLT), LGBT and Gender Reassignment champions produced a video explaining what 'Pride' meant to them which was used at the virtual 'Pride' event in Darlington in August.
15. Young People of Pride (YPOP) is a social support group in Darlington for young LGBT people. The LGBT champion attends this group to enhance the community-based support provided by the Service as well as promoting the Service as an employer of choice to underrepresented groups.
16. Due to COVID-19, there will not be a Stonewall Workplace Equality Index (WEI) published this year, however the Service will continue to strive for improvement and in the support provided in the sexual orientation and gender reassignment strands of equality which we aim to reflect in an improved position on the WEI following our next submission.
17. The Religion and Belief champion attends meetings of the County Durham Interfaith Network and has developed a Service Interfaith Network to provide support to all staff whether they are of faith or not. The group works with faith communities, inter faith organisations, educators and others to increase understanding and cooperation between people of different faiths and to widen staff and public awareness of the distinctive religious traditions within the UK.
18. The Service is working in conjunction with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) Union Learning Fund to promote the Heat Illness Prevention Awareness (HIPA) training programme developed by the University of Brighton with a specific focus on our female firefighters. The aim of the programme is to educate all members of the Service on the similarities and differences in thermoregulation and heat tolerance between sexes but importantly it explains the female specific issues with thermoregulation during certain menstrual cycle phases and into menopause.

Recommendation

19. Members are requested to:
 - a) **Note** the content of the report.

Sarah Nattrass, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, 0191 375 5587

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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

21 September 2020

Government Funding for Fire Protection

Report of Deputy Chief Executive

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with details of additional government funding which has been allocated to Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to support fire protection work during 2020/21.

Background

2. On 29 April 2020 the Service received a letter from the Home Office providing further information on the £20 million grant funding that was being made available to support protection work. The letter outlined that of the £20 million, £4 million would be provided to the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and £16m directly to FRAs in 2020/21 to drive improvement in fire and rescue services (FRSs) across the country. The aim of the additional protection funding is to enable FRSs to have the technical expertise required to fulfil this function and ensure fire protection officers have the skills they need. The funding has been allocated in two grants:
 - (i) £10 million Fire Protection Board funding from MHCLG focused on ensuring fire safety in high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres and
 - (ii) £10 million Protection Uplift funding from the Home Office to bolster work targeting other higher risk buildings.
3. On 16 July 2020 the Service received a further letter from the Home Office setting out the Minister's intention to provide a further £7 million (Infrastructure

Fund) to support delivery of the lessons and relevant recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report.

Details of Funding Received by the Service

4. The Service has been allocated the following sums from each of the three funding streams:

Building Risk Review Programme	£60,000
Protection Uplift Programme	£49,255
Infrastructure Fund	£65,661
Total	£174,916

5. It should be noted that the above funding is for the current year (2020/21) only.

Building Risk Review Programme

6. The purpose of the Building Risk Review Programme is to ensure that in scope high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres identified in each FRS area are subject to an initial risk assessment and depending on that outcome, visited or audited by the end of December. The funding allocation has been based upon the number of high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres within each FRA area and is to be used to deliver the wider building risk review programme. Each FRA received a minimum of £60,000 which is roughly the costs associated with one inspection officer.

Protection Uplift Programme

7. Whilst the focus has been on high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres following the Grenfell Tower fire, the Government is keen to ensure that other high-risk buildings receive appropriate attention. The Protection Uplift Programme funding is to support protection work in ensuring the safety of other high-risk buildings. The funding is to be used to support improvements in protection work and its delivery in line with locally agreed integrated risk management plans (IRMP) and risk-based inspection programmes.

Infrastructure Fund

8. The Infrastructure Fund has been earmarked to help support FRSs to deliver genuine change, to increase their resilience in managing a major fire with a particular focus on communications infrastructure, including the management of multiple life safety calls. From the £7 million, a total of £5.4 million has been allocated to FRS's based on the 2020/21 Fire Settlement Funding shares with

the remaining £1.6 million being used to support activity around communication related costs with details of the allocation of funding to follow.

Grant Conditions and reporting Requirements

9. The Building Risk Review Programme and Protection Uplift Programme grants are ring-fenced to expenditure in discharging fire protection duties in 2020/21. Regular financial and monitoring returns are required to the Home Office via the Protection Board secretariat until both of the grants are fully spent.
10. No specific conditions or reporting requirements have been attached to the Infrastructure Fund grant at this stage however, further details are expected to follow on the process for updating Government on how the funding has been utilised.

Intended Use of the Grant Funding

11. The additional funding will enable the Service to enhance its Business Fire Safety (BFS) capability to meet the expectations outlined by Government. We intend to utilise the funding to invest in the following areas:
 - Restructuring our central BFS team to provide additional capacity and to introduce an additional duty rota to ensure we have qualified staff who are available to take enforcement action at all times.
 - Continuing to train and qualify more of our Emergency Response staff to the Level 3 Certificate in Fire Safety to ensure compliance with the Competency Framework for Fire Safety Regulators and to maintain and improve our delivery model.
 - Reviewing and updating our business address database in CFRMIS to ensure we have all relevant business premises in our risk-based re-inspection programme.
 - Exploring innovative technology solutions to improve efficiency and effectiveness for both Emergency Response crews and central BFS inspecting officers.
12. In respect of the Building Risk Review Programme, the Service received one premise to inspect which has been risk assessed and all necessary data and information has been returned to the Fire Protection Board. The inspecting officers time, travel and administration costs have been offset against this grant.

Recommendation

13. Members are requested to **note** the contents of the report.

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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

21 September 2020

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services Update

Report of the Area Manager Assets and Assurance

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the current position and next steps of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Thematic COVID-19 Inspection

2. Under section 28A(3) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, HMICFRS have been commissioned by the Home Secretary to inspect the response to the COVID-19 pandemic of the fire and rescue sector in England.
3. Specifically, the inspectorate has been asked to consider:
 - (a) what is working well and what is being learnt;
 - (b) how the fire sector is responding to the COVID-19 crisis;
 - (c) how fire services are dealing with the problems they face; and
 - (d) what changes are likely as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. The scope of the inspection will include:
 - (a) Activity to protect communities and limit the spread of COVID-19, including the tripartite agreement;
 - (b) Safety and wellbeing of staff during COVID-19;
 - (c) Maintenance of statutory functions during COVID-19;
 - (d) Sharing and promoting best practice during COVID-19; and
 - (e) Capability to co-ordinate and broker requests for mutual aid during COVID-19.
5. In order to inspect every service in this tight timeframe, each service will be allocated a two-week period between September 2020 to November 2020. County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service's two-week period begins on 2 November 2020.
6. The inspection will be conducted entirely virtually. It will include:
 - (a) Desktop review of business continuity of pandemic plans and absence management policy;
 - (b) Surveys for the Service, staff and local representative bodies;
 - (c) A specific COVID-19 data collection;
 - (d) A stakeholder interview with the Deputy Chair of the Local Resilience Forum;
 - (e) Interview with the Chair of the Combined Fire Authority;
 - (f) Interview with the Chief Fire Officer; and
 - (g) Interviews related to People, Finance, Protection, Prevention, Response and Control.
7. All interviews will be conducted virtually using Microsoft Teams.
8. Following the inspection, the findings will be published in a letter to the Chief Fire Officer and Chair of the Combined Fire Authority. It will contain a narrative and not a graded judgment.

Round Two Fire and Rescue Service Inspections

9. HMICFRS have also confirmed their round two inspection plans. They intend to restart the fire and rescue services inspection programme in early 2021, running through to autumn 2022.
10. They plan to reconsider the inspection methodology, and should any changes be thought necessary, they will consult the external reference and technical advisory groups.

11. HMICFRS have also notified the sector they are considering whether they need to change the order in which services were scheduled to be inspected. If any changes are required, they have stated they will ensure services are given sufficient notice.

Recommendations

12. CFA Members are requested to:
 - a. **note** the contents of this report;
 - b. **receive** further reports as appropriate.

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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

21 September 2020

Fire Safety - Government Consultation

Report of the Area Manager, Community Risk Management

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides members with a precis of the Government's consultation on changes to fire safety legislation and how it is proposed to implement the recommendations set out in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report that require new legislation. Attached as Appendix 1 is a draft response to the consultation for members consideration and approval.

Background

2. The consultation is a further step in the Government's actions to improve fire and building safety for all buildings. It also sets out how it is proposed to implement the recommendations addressed directly to Government by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report, accepted by the Prime Minister on the day of the report being published in October 2019. The proposals focus on providing residents with greater assurance and fire safety improvements in their buildings; driving effective and sustainable operational outcomes for fire-fighters; and holding Responsible Persons (including building owners and managers) to account.
3. There are three thematic sections in this consultation. Each section is divided into topical chapters which provide background information to the lead question(s). Respondents can answer as many or as few questions as they wish. The consultation closes on 12 October 2020.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

4. The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO) is the cornerstone of general fire safety legislation and extends to England and Wales, regulating fire safety in non-domestic premises, including workplaces and the non-domestic parts of multi-occupied residential buildings.
5. The FSO places fire safety duties on persons with control of non-domestic premises – the Responsible Persons (RP) - and on others (duty holders) to the extent of their responsibilities under the FSO. The FSO principally adopts a risk-based approach to fire safety requiring RPs to ensure that general fire precautions are in place. In this way the FSO promotes the avoidance of fires and the mitigation of the effects of fires.
6. The Government is currently in the process of legislating to amend the FSO. The Fire Safety Bill seeks to clarify the scope of the FSO, which will lead to better identification, assessment and enforcement against fire risks in multi-occupied residential buildings. The Bill will clarify that the FSO applies to the structure, external walls (including cladding and balconies) and individual flat entrance doors between domestic premises and the non-domestic parts. It will also affirm the ability for the Fire and Rescue Service to enforce against non-compliance in relation to these parts of such premises. The Bill provides a firm foundation on which to implement the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations. This consultation sets out proposals in relation to buildings in England only.

Section 1: Strengthening of the Fire Safety Order and Improving Compliance

7. The significant key areas addressed within this section are:
 - **Guidance:** There is a plan to overhaul the current suite of guidance. This is not subject to consultation although we are seeking views on matters relating to the adequacy of the relevant provisions in the Order and on the form of revised or new guidance.
 - **Responsible Persons:** Consultation on placing a legal requirement on the RP to record who they are, the extent of their responsibility for the building under the FSO, their contact information as part of the fire risk assessment and whether they should be required to provide a contact address in the United Kingdom.
 - **Quality of Fire Risk Assessments:** A proposal to introduce a competence requirement for fire risk assessors. We also propose to impose a legal requirement on RPs to record the entirety of their fire risk assessments.
 - **Provision of Information:** Consultation on whether to require RPs in all multi-occupied residential buildings to provide specific fire safety information to residents.
 - **Enforcement and Sanctions:** Revised guidance on these issues will provide additional clarity and support for enforcing authorities to take action against non-compliance with the FSO. Views are being sought on the sufficiency of the level of fines available for specific offences under the Order.

- **Higher Risk Workplaces:** Regulations under the FSO may be made requiring additional precautions to be taken in relation to risk to relevant persons in such higher risk premises.
- **Fees and Charges:** To enable Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to charge for enforcement activity under the FSO.
- **Charging for False Fire Alarms:** The consultation is also seeking views on the current criteria for charging for false fire alarms for FSO regulated premises.

Section 2: Implementation of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report Recommendations

8. The significant key areas addressed within this section are:

- **Definition of Height for High-Rise Buildings:** Proposal for setting a clear height threshold for the category of buildings referred to as “high-rise”. This is aligned to the proposed scope of the Building Safety Bill on enactment, which is 18 metres and/or more than six storeys, whichever comes first.
- **External Walls:** A requirement for RPs to provide local FRSs with information about the design of the building’s external walls and details of the materials they are constructed from.
- **Plans:** A proposal to require RPs to provide their local FRS with up-to-date floor plans which identify the location of key firefighting systems.
- **Evacuation Plans:** A proposed requirement for RPs to draw up and keep under regular review evacuation plans.
- **Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP):** Proposal to require RPs to provide details of any residents, who self-identify to them as requiring assistance to evacuate, to their local FRS and to place this information in a Premises Information Box.
- **Information to Residents for all multi-occupied residential buildings:** Proposal to require the RP to provide fire safety information (including instructions for evacuation) in an accessible manner.
- **Fire Doors:** Proposal to require RPs to undertake checks of the self-closing devices in multi-occupied residential buildings over 11 metres and above.
- **Fire Doors:** It is proposed to require RPs to undertake checks of the self-closing devices in multi-occupied residential buildings over 11 metres and above.

Section 3: Building Control Bodies consultation with Fire and Rescue Authorities

9. The significant key areas addressed within this section are:

- **Information Sharing:** Is current guidance on information to be provided to Fire and Rescue Authorities sufficient or are there any areas where this should be improved.
- **Plans Certificates:** We are seeking views on whether there is value in plans certificates being mandatory for buildings covered by the FSO, or whether further guidance would be more beneficial.

- **Timeliness of Response:** Views are being sought on whether further consultation points in the process should be prescribed in legislation, and if so when they should be prescribed to promote timely engagement between the building control body and the FRA.
- **Response Timescales:** Should there be a statutory timeframe for responses by the FRA to provide further clarity about what is required and when, and if so, what it should be.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Are there problems with resolving disputes between building control bodies and Fire and Rescue Authorities which could benefit from a mediation panel and, if so, which representative bodies should be involved.

Consultation Process

10. During the consultation period a wide range of external stakeholders including the Fire and Rescue Services, other enforcing authorities, RPs including building owners, managers and duty holders, residents' groups, existing regulators and other organisations who represent those who have statutory responsibilities under the FSO or are otherwise affected by it will be given the opportunity to respond to this consultation.
11. A draft response to the consultation is attached as Appendix 1 for members to consider and approve. Consultation closes on 12 October 2020.

Recommendations

12. CFA members are requested to:
 - a. **note** the content of the report;
 - b. **approve** the draft response to the consultation attached as Appendix 1.

AM Keith Wanley, 0191 3755630

Appendix 1 - Fire Safety Consultation

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This consultation is open to the public and is targeted at groups and/or individuals impacted or representing the interests of those affected by Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, including but not limited to:

- 'Responsible Persons' being the owners, occupiers, or other persons in control of relevant premises
- Fire safety professionals
- Enforcing Authorities
- 'Relevant Persons' being any persons lawfully on, or in the immediate vicinity of, said premises and who would be at risk from fire on the premises

We welcome responses from anyone else with an interest in or experience of the areas being consulted on within this consultation.

This consultation relates to England only.

There are three thematic sections in this consultation. Each section is divided into topical chapters which provide background information to the lead question(s). Respondents can answer as many or as few questions as they wish. You do not have to comment on every section or respond to every question in each section but can focus on where you have relevant views and evidence to share. If you wish to respond to all questions, you do not have to complete the whole form at once. For ease of reference we have used a standard question structure throughout this document.

About You and Your Response

These first few questions in the consultation will be about the capacity in which you are responding to the consultation and also about some personal characteristics. This information will be used to support analysis and to help us to understand who is responding to this consultation and the context of their answers.

Please use this section to tell us about yourself. Please note you are completing this section voluntarily; your details will be held securely according to the data protection legislation. More information on what data we are collecting, why and how it will be looked after can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fire-safety>.

We have not asked you for any personal data, however your opinions may constitute personal data and by responding electronically we will have your IP address and/or your email address. These personal data will be deleted after the response to the consultation has been published.

Every effort will be made to ensure individuals will not be identifiable in any reports or summaries of responses.

About You and Your Response

Q1. Please select in what capacity you are responding to this consultation. Please select any that apply.

- a. Responsible Person
- b. Dutyholder
- c. Enforcing Authority
- d. Resident
- e. Residential Group
- f. Local authority
- g. Construction company
- h. Property company
- i. Building resident/tenant
- j. Building Control Body
- k. Trade Association
- l. Other (please specify):

Q2. Please indicate whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.

- a. Individual
- b. On behalf of an organisation
- c. Trade body or other representative group of individuals or organisations

Organisation

Q4. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide details of:

a. The name of the organisation you are representing.

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Se

b. How many people the organisation employs.

- a. Under 10
- b. 10–49
- c. 50–249
- d. 250–999
- e. 1,000 or more

Please select **all** the sections that you would like to answer from the options below:

Section 1: Strengthening the Fire Safety Order and Improving Compliance (for all Regulated Premises)

Proposals in this section seek to strengthen the Fire Safety Order (FSO) and the tools available for Fire and Rescue Authorities to drive compliance, leading to greater competence and accountability for those with responsibility for buildings in scope. In a number of chapters, we are seeking views from those with experience of the FSO in relation to key areas which do not have specific proposal attached. These views will be used to further our understanding of the Order and inform future considerations.

- Tick here to complete Section 1

Section 2: Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report Recommendations

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report recommendations call for new requirements to be established in law to ensure the protection of residents in multi-occupied high-rise buildings, with some proposals applying to such buildings of any height. This section sets out proposals to implement the recommendations in a practical, proportionate and effective manner.

- Tick here to complete Section 2

Section 3: Building Control Bodies Consultation with Fire and Rescue Authorities

The proposals in this section will increase the effectiveness of the arrangements for consultation and information sharing between building

control bodies and fire and rescue services in relation to the planning stage of a building's lifecycle, and between building control bodies and Responsible Persons under the FSO.

- Tick here to complete Section 3

Section 1: Strengthening the Fire Safety Order and Improving Compliance (for all Regulated Premises)

Proposals in this section seek to strengthen the Fire Safety Order (FSO) and the tools available for Fire and Rescue Authorities to drive compliance, leading to greater competence and accountability for those with responsibility for buildings in scope. In a number of chapters, we are seeking views from those with experience of the FSO in relation to key areas which do not have specific proposal attached. These views will be used to further our understanding of the Order and inform future considerations.

1.1 Guidance

Please refer to Chapter 1.1 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q6. To what extent to do you agree that Article 50 is a sufficient basis for providing guidance to RPs to support their compliance with their duties under the Order?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q7. To what extent do you agree that a strengthened legal basis for guidance under the Fire Safety Order is needed such as a Code of Practice?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree

- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q8. If you agree that a strengthened legal basis for guidance is required, then can you set out which specific areas or issues you think should be covered by an 'Approved Code of Practice'?

- a. Responsible Persons
- b. Enforcement and Sanctions
- c. Fire Risk Assessments
- d. Higher risk workplaces
- e. Provision of Information
- Other

If 'Other' please outline what other areas should be considered to be covered by a code of practice and why:

Q9. If you do not agree that the legislative basis for guidance needs to change, to what extent do you agree/disagree that the format and style of Codes of Practice (such as the Health & Safety Executive's) should be adopted for any new or revised guidance under the existing provisions within the FSO?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

- Don't know

1.2 Responsible Persons

Please refer to Chapter 1.2 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q10. To what extent do you agree that a requirement for Responsible Persons to record who they are, the extent of their responsibility under the FSO, and their contact information will facilitate the identification of RPs?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q11. To what extent do you agree that the requirement set out in proposal 1 be extended to others that have control of the premises, such as dutyholders?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q12. To what extent do you agree that the information the Responsible Person is required to record should include a UK based contact address?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q13. To what extent do you agree that the duty to cooperate and coordinate (Article 22) should be amended to include a requirement for Responsible Persons to take steps to identify themselves to all other Responsible Persons (and where applicable Accountable Persons and/or Building Safety Managers as proposed under the Building Safety Bill) where they share or have duties in respect of the same premises.

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q14. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

Identifying the responsible person can be one of the most difficult elements in any enforcement action and can be extremely time consuming and complicated. Currently it is all too easy for people to hide behind company names and change directors on-line to avoid RP status. This will be an essential change to any legislation.

1.3 Quality of Fire Risk Assessments

Please refer to Chapter 1.3 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q15. To what extent do you agree that the FSO should include a competency requirement for fire risk assessors and other fire professionals engaged by the RPs?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q16. To what extent do you agree that the name and contact information of an individual engaged by the Responsible Person to undertake any or all of the fire risk assessment, should be recorded within the completed fire risk assessment.

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q17. Please set out any further information you think fire risk assessments should include.

The name of the responsible person and contact details should be included. A signed statement to say that the Responsible Person has read and understood the Fire Risk Assessment should also be included. Any actions that are highlighted as needing to be addressed to ensure compliance with the FSO should have an action plan / timeframe attached and agreed by the RP.

Q18. To what extent do you agree that a duty should be placed on all RPs to record their completed fire risk assessments?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q19. To what extent do you agree that all RPs should be required to record their fire safety arrangements (Article 11)?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q20. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

It could be onerous for small simple premises to have to employ a registered Fire Risk Assessor to complete an FRA, Currently a premises with 5 or less employees do not need to record an FRA however this is classed as 5 employees across all premises in the company so a company with 5 shops with 2 people in each would be expected to record the FRA, this could mean employing a

1.4 Provision of Information

Please refer to Chapter 1.4 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
to mitigate potential fire risk	measures in place to mitigate potential fire risk Strongly agree	measures in place to mitigate potential fire risk Tend to agree	measures in place to mitigate potential fire risk Neither agree nor disagree	measures in place to mitigate potential fire risk Tend to disagree	measures in place to mitigate potential fire risk Strongly disagree	measures in place to mitigate potential fire risk Don't know
c. The role and responsibilities of relevant RPs and dutyholders, including their name and contact details	<input checked="" type="radio"/> c. The role and responsibilities of relevant RPs and dutyholders, including their name and contact details Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> c. The role and responsibilities of relevant RPs and dutyholders, including their name and contact details Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> c. The role and responsibilities of relevant RPs and dutyholders, including their name and contact details Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/> c. The role and responsibilities of relevant RPs and dutyholders, including their name and contact details Tend to disagree	<input type="radio"/> c. The role and responsibilities of relevant RPs and dutyholders, including their name and contact details Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> c. The role and responsibilities of relevant RPs and dutyholders, including their name and contact details Don't know
d. The Fire Risk Assessment (available on request).	<input checked="" type="radio"/> d. The Fire Risk Assessment (available on request). Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> d. The Fire Risk Assessment (available on request). Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> d. The Fire Risk Assessment (available on request). Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/> d. The Fire Risk Assessment (available on request). Tend to disagree	<input type="radio"/> d. The Fire Risk Assessment (available on request). Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> d. The Fire Risk Assessment (available on request). Don't know



Note: under the FSO, a 'Relevant Person' is defined as any person who is or may be lawfully on the premises and any person in the immediate vicinity of the premises who is at risk from a fire on the premises.

Q23. Please note any comments you have on whether the information outlined above should be provided to specific relevant persons (residents).

Residents should definitely be able to see any information that could affect them in the case of a fire and the safety of the building in which they live.

Q24. What other information, if any, should RPs be required to provide specific relevant persons (residents)?

RP's should provide an action plan to all residents on any improvements required as set out in the Fire Risk Assessment. This should include timescales in which the work will be completed and any remedial work or procedures in place.

Q25. The intention of proposal 6 is to provide information to residents of all multi-occupied residential buildings subject to the FSO. To what extent do you agree that this information should be available on request to other 'relevant persons' within:

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
a. multi-occupied residential buildings covered by the Order	<input type="radio"/> a. multi-occupied residential buildings covered	<input type="radio"/> a. multi-occupied residential buildings covered	<input type="radio"/> a. multi-occupied residential buildings covered by the Order Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="radio"/> a. multi-occupied residential buildings covered	<input type="radio"/> a. multi-occupied residential buildings covered	<input type="radio"/> a. multi-occupied residential buildings covered

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
	by the Order Strongly agree	by the Order Tend to agree		by the Order Tend to disagree	by the Order Strongly disagree	by the Order Don't know
b. all buildings covered by the Order	<input type="radio"/> b. all buildings covered by the Order Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> b. all buildings covered by the Order Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> b. all buildings covered by the Order Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="radio"/> b. all buildings covered by the Order Tend to disagree	<input type="radio"/> b. all buildings covered by the Order Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> b. all buildings covered by the Order Don't know

Q26. Please note any additional information to support your answer to Question 25.

This could include any member of the public who is within a metre of the outside of a window if they could be affected by a fire on the premises and could make it very difficult for an RP to provide information to almost anyone who asks for it. This could be overly onerous.

Q27. To what extent do you agree that a new requirement should be placed on RPs to take steps to share all relevant fire safety information with subsequent RPs?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q28. In addition to fire risk assessments, is there any other information that should be shared between successive Responsible Persons?

Any evacuation plans or incomplete action plans relating to improvements to fire safety facilities / procedures. Test records for fire alarm / emergency lighting / firefighting facilities could also be shared

Q29. Please note any other gaps in the FSO in relation to the provision of information and how they could be addressed.

Any deficiencies that are highlighted within the FRA should be available to be viewed by all relevant people within a premises, either residents or employees.

Q30. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

1.5 Enforcement and Sanctions

Please refer to Chapter 1.5 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q31. To what extent do you agree that a level 3 fine (£1,000) provides a suitable deterrent and carries a suitable financial penalty?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q32. To what extent do you agree that a level 4 fine (£2,500) would provide a suitable deterrent and carry a suitable financial penalty?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q33. To what extent do you agree that a level 5 fine (unlimited) would provide a suitable deterrent and carry a suitable financial penalty?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q34. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

A small business would suffer due to a smaller fine but larger companies may choose to ignore the FSO if a fire risk assessment could cost them more than any fine that could be imposed on them.

1.6 Maintenance, Including the Role of Residents

Please refer to Chapter 1.6 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q35. To what extent do you agree that Article 17 makes sufficient provision for ensuring that premises and any facilities etc are subject to a system of maintenance and are maintained to an appropriate standard for the safety of relevant persons?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q36. To what extent do you agree that the Order sufficiently provides for the replacement of defective or substandard facilities, equipment and devices including fire doors?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q37. To what extent do you agree that Article 17 is effective in ensuring the occupier (of parts of a building to which the FSO does not apply) co-operates with the Responsible Person?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q38. To what extent do you think that the occupier (of residential parts of a building to which the FSO does not apply) in buildings out of scope of the new regime should be under duties similar (in relation to fire safety) to those being considered under the Building Safety Bill?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q39. To what extent do you agree that the powers of enforcement available to Fire and Rescue Authorities are effective in ensuring remediation for breaches of Article 17?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree

- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q40. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

Fire Authorities should be able to take more simple action such as on the spot 'tickets' that can be issued on the premises to enforce alterations and improvements to be made rather than the current situation that requires deficiencies letters or enforcement notices to be issued which are administratively complicated for less serious issues. Any enforcement notice can also be appealed and is put aside whilst the appeal is in progress.

Q41. To what extent do you agree that Article 38 makes sufficient provision for ensuring that premises and any facilities etc are subject to a system of maintenance and are maintained to an appropriate standard for the safety of fire fighters?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q42. To what extent do you agree that Article 38 is effective in ensuring that the occupier (of parts of a building to which the FSO does not apply) co-operates with the Responsible Person?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

- Don't know

Q43. To what extent do you agree that the powers of enforcement available to Fire and Rescue Authorities are effective in ensuring remediation for breaches of Article 38?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q44. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

Fire Authorities should be able to take more simple action such as on the spot 'tickets' that can be issued on the premises to enforce alterations and improvements to be made rather than the current situation that requires deficiencies letters or enforcement notices to be issued which are administratively complicated for less serious issues. Any enforcement notice can also be appealed and is put aside whilst the appeal is in progress.

1.7 Higher Risk Workplaces

Please refer to Chapter 1.7 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q45. What risk factors are of most concern to you in higher risk workplaces (such as prisons, hospitals, sheltered and supported housing, residential educational buildings, care homes) and why? For example:

- a. Occupancy (who is on the premises: children, patients, the elderly, etc.);
- b. Use of premises (what activity is carried out);
- c. Existing fire strategy;
- d. Design and construction of the building (e.g., layout, materials, size, etc.);
- e. Other (please specify):

Lack of compartmentation in higher risk premises such as Care Homes.

Q46. What additional fire precautions requirements – over and above those already required under the Order – should apply to higher risk workplaces to increase fire safety?

- a. Provision and maintenance of means of escape;
- b. Provision and maintenance of firefighting systems;
- c. Provision of employee training on fire safety;
- d. Provision of sufficient employees present on the premises to ensure means of escape can be safely and effectively used all times;
- e. Annual review of the fire risk assessment;
- f. Record keeping demonstrating the specific requirements;
- g. Other (please specify):

Q47. Based on the above, please also indicate what specific requirements should apply to what type of higher risk workplace building:

Any building that could have members of the public present should have dedicated public evacuation fire wardens in place.
Mandatory compartmentation surveys in Care homes and residential buildings to ensure safe progressive horizontal evacuation can be carried out.

Q48. Do you have any other comments?

1.9 Charging for False Fire Alarms

Please refer to Chapter 1.9 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q57. To what extent do you agree that charging can be a beneficial tool when attempting to reduce FFA and encourage behaviour change?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q58. Please provide further information on your thoughts around possible behaviour change (both positive and negative).

In CDDFRS we have used cost recovery for a year now and have found a positive outcome in most circumstances where multiple charges have been levied. The majority of premises have worked with us to improve their alarm systems and minimise call outs to ourselves. Other businesses have put a delay and investigation time in place to also minimise call outs to ourselves, This included the NHS in their main hospitals which has led to a large reduction in unwanted calls to their estate.

Q59. To what extent do you agree that barriers to the current charging system for FFA exist?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q60. Please provide further information on your views:

I feel that the areas we can charge for are appropriate.

Q61. To what extent do you agree that the following terminology, under 18C(3) FRSA, in relation to charging for FFA are appropriate and clear?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
a. Malfunctioned	<input checked="" type="radio"/> a. Malfunctioned Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> a. Malfunctioned Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> a. Malfunctioned Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/> a. Malfunctioned Tend to disagree	<input type="radio"/> a. Malfunctioned Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> a. Malfunctioned Don't know
b. Misinstalled	<input checked="" type="radio"/> b. Misinstalled Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> b. Misinstalled Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> b. Misinstalled Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/> b. Misinstalled Tend to disagree	<input type="radio"/> b. Misinstalled Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> b. Misinstalled Don't know
c. Persistent	<input checked="" type="radio"/> c. Persistent Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> c. Persistent Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> c. Persistent Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/> c. Persistent Tend to disagree	<input type="radio"/> c. Persistent Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> c. Persistent Don't know

Q62. Please provide further information on your thoughts around the following terminology, under 18C(3) FRSA, in relation to charging for FFA:

a. Malfunctioned

b. Misinstalled

c. Persistent

d. Other (Please note any other terminology you would like to comment on).

Q63. To what extent do you agree that FRA can charge for the following types of FFA?

FFA is defined into four categories under BS 5839-1: False alarms with good intent, malicious false alarms, equipment false alarms and unwanted alarms.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
a. False alarms with good intent	<input type="radio"/> a. False alarms with good intent Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> a. False alarms with good intent Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> a. False alarms with good intent Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="radio"/> a. False alarms with good intent Tend to disagree	<input type="radio"/> a. False alarms with good intent Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> a. False alarms with good intent Don't know
b. Malicious false alarms	<input type="radio"/> b. Malicious false alarms Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> b. Malicious false alarms Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> b. Malicious false alarms Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/> b. Malicious false alarms Tend to disagree	<input checked="" type="radio"/> b. Malicious false alarms Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> b. Malicious false alarms Don't know
c. Equipment false alarms	<input checked="" type="radio"/> c. Equipment false alarms Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> c. Equipment false alarms Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> c. Equipment false alarms Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/> c. Equipment false alarms Tend to disagree	<input type="radio"/> c. Equipment false alarms Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> c. Equipment false alarms Don't know
d. Unwanted alarms	<input checked="" type="radio"/> d. Unwanted alarms Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> d. Unwanted alarms Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> d. Unwanted alarms Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/> d. Unwanted alarms Tend to disagree	<input type="radio"/> d. Unwanted alarms Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>

Q64. Please provide further information on your views.

Malicious alarms can be very hard to stop in certain premises and it may be unfair to charge for these. If alarms are used with good intent it would be unwise to charge for this as it may stop people using them when they are needed as they would be more concerned with a charge than with safety of occupants.

Q65. To what extent do you agree that we should take steps to change the current approach to charging under 18C(3) FRSA?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Section 2: Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report Recommendations

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report recommendations call for new requirements to be established in law to ensure the protection of residents in multi-occupied high-rise buildings, with some proposals applying to such buildings of any height. This section sets out proposals to implement the recommendations in a practical, proportionate and effective manner.

2.1 Definition of Height for High-Rise Buildings

Please refer to Chapter 2.1 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q66. To what extent do you agree that we should apply the same height definition for high-rise residential buildings to that set out in the proposed Building Safety Bill (18 metres and / or more than six storeys whichever comes first) to any proposed regulations made under the FSO?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q67. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

Regulations should be kept as simple as possible and should all compliment each other as much as possible.

2.2 External Walls

Please refer to Chapter 2.2 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q68. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal to make regulations as described above?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

- Don't know

Please explain:

it is vital that FRS 's are informed of risks associated with external construction as this can change over time and it would be extremely difficult for a fire service to have the resources to continually check all buildings in its area. RP's must hold the responsibility to know what the risks are in their premises and to ensure this is communicated to the FRS and fully explored in their Fire Risk Assessment.

Q69. In your view, what form should the information in relation to fire risks linked to the design and materials of the external wall structures, and the mitigating steps, be provided:

- a. A bespoke standard format, or**
- b. The relevant section of the fire risk assessment that is related to external walls?**

The relevant section of the fire risk assessment should be sufficient and minimise any duplication in paperwork.

Q70. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

2.3 Plans

Please refer to Chapter 2.3 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q71. To what extent do you agree with this proposed approach to make regulations as described above?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Please explain:

Electronic plans could be uploaded to mobile data terminals on fire appliances to assist in operational incidents as well as fire safety databases to assist in auditing any premises.

Q72. Please indicate what key firefighting equipment could be included in the building plans:

a. Dry risers

yes

b. Wet risers

yes

c. Location of the nearest fire hydrant

yes

d. Smoke control systems

yes

e. Suppression systems (including associated operating instructions)

yes

f. Lifts

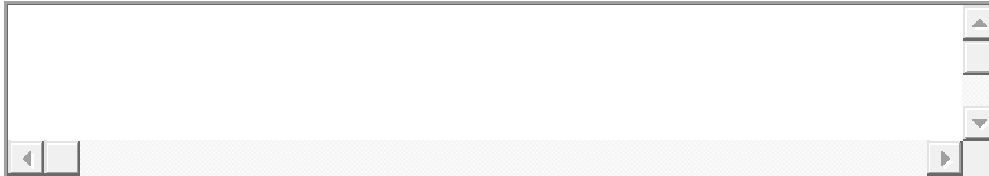
yes

g. Other (please specify)

Q73. Please indicate whether you think building plans should be provided for every floor of a building or only for those floors that are different in their layout?

- a. Every floor of the building
- b. Only for those floors that are different in their layout

Q74. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?



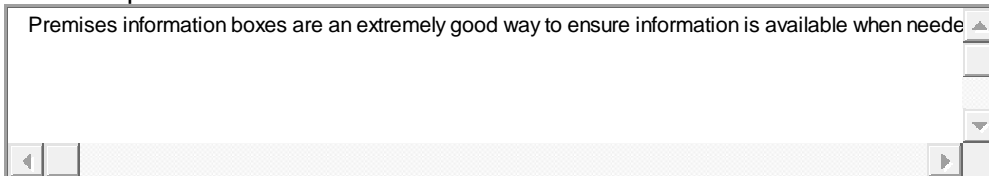
2.4 Premises Information Boxes

Please refer to Chapter 2.4 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q75. To what extent do you agree with this proposed approach to make regulations as described above?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Please explain:



Q76. To what extent do you agree that the premises information box should include copies of the completed fire risk assessment?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q77. To what extent do you agree that the premises information box should include the contact details for the relevant Responsible Person?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q78. To what extent do you agree that there should be a consistent approach to Premises Information Boxes between the Fire Safety Order and the Building Regulation guidance?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q79. To what extent to you agree that Approved Document B should set the threshold at 18m top storey height only in relation to the PIB requirement?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q80. Do you consider that other recommendations should be provided? Please explain.

Premises information boxes should be recommended in all premises other than simple premises to assist the fire service with operational incidents.

Q81. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

2.5 Lifts

Please refer to Chapter 2.5 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q82. To what extent do you agree with this proposed approach to make regulations as described above?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree

- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Please explain:

All equipment or facilities to assist in firefighting must be kept in full working order and this must be recorded to enable these checks to be audited.

Q83. What would you suggest is a sufficient threshold for the reporting timeframe to the local Fire and Rescue Services?

- a. Within 24 hours of the fault or issue being identified
- b. Within 48 hours of the fault or issue being identified
- c. Within 72 hours of the fault or issue being identified
- Other (please specify):

Q84. To what extent do you agree that the proposal should cover all lifts within a building?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q85. To what extent to you agree that the proposal should cover other pieces of key fire-fighting equipment?

- Strongly agree

- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q86. What other pieces of key fire-fighting equipment, excluding lifts and the mechanism with through which fire fighters can take control of the lifts, would you suggest should be included in this proposal (therefore tested or inspected every month and reported to the local fire and rescue service in the event of failure)?


- a. Dry risers
- b. Wet risers
- c. Smoke control systems
- d. Suppression systems (including associated operating instructions)
- e. Other (please specify):

sprinkler systems / suppression systems

Q87. To what extent do you agree that the proposal should be extended to include a requirement for information about the monthly checks to be made visible to residents?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q88. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?



2.6 Evacuation Plans

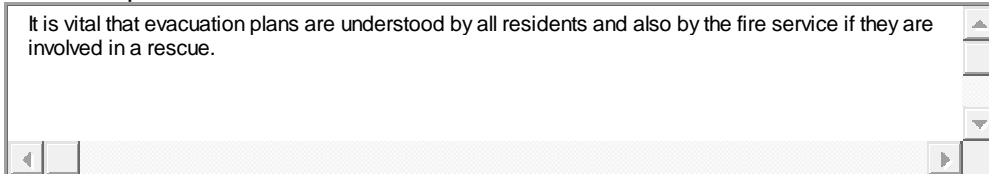
Please refer to Chapter 2.6 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q89. To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to make regulations as described above?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Please explain:

It is vital that evacuation plans are understood by all residents and also by the fire service if they are involved in a rescue.



Q90. Do you think this proposal should be extended to cover all multi-occupied residential buildings of 11m and above?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Please explain:

This should not be limited to 11m or above but should be for any multi occupancy building over a certain number of residents. Eg. 10 residents or more over any number of story's.

Q91. What information do you think should be included in an evacuation plan?

How the alarm is raised, how the evacuation should be managed, ie. fire wardens responsibilities. Any firefighting facilities available to assist in an evacuation, ie. Firefighting lifts, smoke extraction systems, etc.

Q92. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

2.7 Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans

Please refer to Chapter 2.7 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q93. To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to make regulations as described above?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Please explain:

The proposal for residents to self identify is the safest and most common sense route as it would be unfeasible for an RP to know the physical mobility of all residents in any given building.

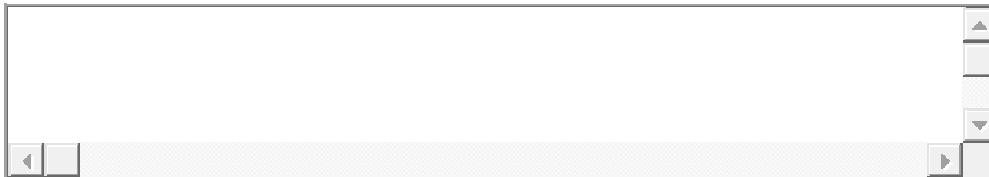
Q95. What information, other than location, do you think should be provided to Fire and Rescue Services in relation to residents who cannot self-evacuate?

The type of assistance required, eg. Bariatric / blind, wheelchair user etc.

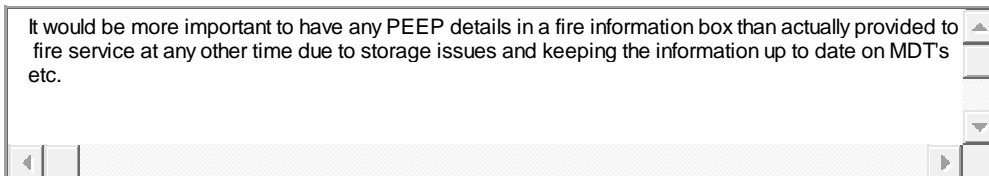
Q96. To what extent do you agree that a Responsible Person should notify their local fire and rescue service of any residents who cannot self-evacuate (subject to the resident engagement, resident self-identification and consent)?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q97. Please indicate what information you would like to see included in the supporting guidance?

An empty text input field with a light gray background and a thin border. It features standard scrollbars on the right and bottom edges, indicating it is a multi-line text area.

Q98. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

A text input field containing the following text: "It would be more important to have any PEEP details in a fire information box than actually provided to fire service at any other time due to storage issues and keeping the information up to date on MDT's etc." The text is left-aligned and occupies most of the field's width. The field has a light gray background and a thin border, with scrollbars on the right and bottom.

2.8 Information to Residents

Please refer to Chapter 2.8 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q99. To what extent do you agree with this proposed approach to make regulations as stated above?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Please explain:

It is vital that all residents know and understand how to evacuate the premises.

Q100. Other than the information already listed under Proposals 25 and 26, what other information or instruction should be provided to residents?

Any deficiencies that are identified during a fire safety audit or fire risk assessment along with a timescale of the deficiencies being remedied. Residents should also be notified if any fire safety systems are out of use.

Q101. What factors should be taken into consideration in relation to the:

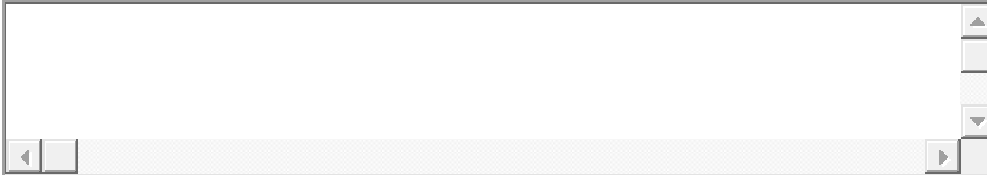
a. “nature of the building”

The building materials, type of residents, eg. Mobili

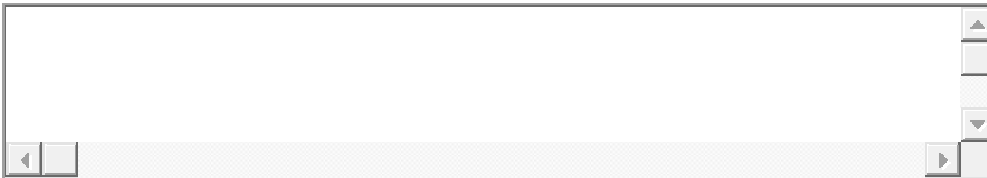
b. the RPs “knowledge of the occupants”?

This would have to be self identified by the resident

Q102. Please indicate what information you would like to see included in the supporting guidance?



Q103. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?



2.9 Fire Doors

Please refer to Chapter 2.9 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Referring to proposals 27 & 28:

Q104. To what extent do you agree with this proposed approach as described above?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q105. Do you have any other comments to further support your answer?

Flat front doors should be subject to annual checks in buildings of any height when they open into communal areas. The height restrictions mentioned would not include blocks under 11m which could still provide a huge risk to any residents if the flat doors were substandard and ill maintained.

Q106. Please note any factors we should consider in the implementation of these proposals.

Q107. Please provide any additional comments on the related matters on which we are seeking views.

Referring to proposals 29 & 30:

Q108. To what extent do you agree with this proposed approach as described above?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q109. Do you have any other comments to further support your answers above?

The enforcement of suitable fire doors to front doors of flats should not be limited to high rise buildings. Any multi occupied premises without adequate fire doors to flats will provide a degree of risk to all residents who may need to use the communal areas as an escape route and as such should be included in this proposal.

Q110. Please note any factors we should consider in the implementation of these changes in this proposal?

Q111. Please provide any additional comments on the sufficiency of the Government's actions to date to address the Inquiry's concerns.

2.10 Non-legislative Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Recommendations and Alignment with Approved Document B

Please refer to Chapter 2.10 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q112. To what extent do you agree that the installation of sprinklers in existing buildings should continue to be guided by the fire risk assessment process rather than be made mandatory under the FSO?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q113. To what extent do you agree that regulations should be made requiring wayfinding signage to be introduced in multi-occupied residential buildings?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q114. Should the requirement for wayfinding signage be introduced in:

- all multi-occupied residential buildings?
- multi-occupied residential buildings of 11m and above?

Q115. To what extent do you agree any requirement for evacuation alert systems should be informed by the outcome of the programme of research and testing?

- Strongly agree

- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Section 3: Building Control Bodies Consultation with Fire and Rescue Authorities

The proposals in this section will increase the effectiveness of the arrangements for consultation and information sharing between building control bodies and fire and rescue services in relation to the planning stage of a building's lifecycle, and between building control bodies and Responsible Persons under the FSO.

3.1 Better Information

Please refer to Chapter 3.1 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q116a. To what extent do you agree that further guidance should be provided on the information which needs to be supplied?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

3.1 Better Information

Q116b. You agree that further guidance should be provided, please specify what information this should cover:

It should be mandatory for the building control body to include their findings / schedule to the Fire Service. It should also be mandatory that plans are provided to the Fire Service prior to any building work being started. Cases have been found where sprinklers or other fire safety facilities were required in buildings that had already been built.

Q117. To what extent do you agree that a standardised set of building fire safety information requirements describing what information is to be provided would be helpful?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q118. To what extent do you agree that a standardised format for providing the above information would be helpful?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

3.2 Plans Certificate

Please refer to Chapter 3.2 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q119. To what extent do you agree that plans certificates should be mandated for FSO buildings?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q120. To what extent do you agree that plans certificates could allow for conditions to be set?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q121. To what extent do you agree that plans certificates should be mandated only where building work affects fire or structural safety matters?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q122. As an alternative, to what extent do you agree that further guidance would be sufficient?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q123. Please explain your views on plans certificates further:

Any building works that could affect fire safety should be checked by the fire service prior to any work being carried out. Currently it feels as though the fire service is almost an inconvenience for building approved inspectors although Local Authority building control bodies do appear to use the FRS as more of a source of expertise and advice. FRS 's have a wealth of knowledge of how buildings actually behave in a fire situation rather than just theoretical knowledge from studies. This should be utilised as

3.3 Timely Consultation

Please refer to Chapter 3.3 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q124a. To what extent do you agree that there are additional consultation points that could be specified in legislation or guidance?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q124b. If yes, please specify what these points are and whether these should be specified in legislation or guidance?

No building work should be able to be started before the plans are passed as satisfactory by the Fire Service, currently it is too easy to build an entire building and then plead ignorance when fire safety issues are neglected such as sprinklers, it is then often impossible to retrofit them and less effective fire engineered principles have to be utilised to substitute them

3.4 Appropriate Response Times

Please refer to Chapter 3.4 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q125. To what extent do you agree that there should be a fixed statutory timeframe in legislation for response by Fire and Rescue Authorities (upon receipt of the appropriate information from building control bodies)?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q126a. If a statutory timeframe were to be introduced in legislation, to what extent do you agree that it should be:

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
15 calendar days	<input type="radio"/> 15 calendar days Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> 15 calendar days Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> 15 calendar days Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/> 15 calendar days Tend to disagree	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 15 calendar days Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> 15 calendar days Don't know

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
21 calendar days	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 21 calendar days Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/> 21 calendar days Tend to agree	<input type="radio"/> 21 calendar days Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/> 21 calendar days Tend to disagree	<input type="radio"/> 21 calendar days Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/> 21 calendar days Don't know

Other, please specify:

Q126b. Please explain your response:

15 calendar days can be restrictive during periods of leave and busy periods for fire service's. Licensing consultations are given 28 days so 21 days would be more appropriate for BR consultations. Some BR consultations can also be complicated fire engineered designs which can require lengthy study or even rerunning of computational fluid dynamic programmes to prove fire strategies.

Q127. To what extent do you agree that there should be a flexible arrangement where all parties involved including developer, building control body and Fire and Rescue Authority are able to agree an extension to the timeframe to meet the need/s of the specific project?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q128. Please note any other factors we should consider relating to introducing statutory timeframes for consultation between building control bodies and Fire and Rescue Authorities.



3.5 Enabling Dispute Resolution

Please refer to Chapter 3.5 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q129a. Are there problems with resolving disputes between building control bodies and Fire and Rescue Authorities which could benefit from a mediation panel with appropriate representative bodies providing advice on resolving disputes?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q129b. Please explain your answer.

CDDFRS have not had an issue where an agreement has not been able to be reached with a building control body but I would imagine that other FRS 's may have had issues especially with approved inspectors so a mediation panel in these circumstances could be a useful addition.

Q130. Which bodies should be involved?

It would be sensible to that the panel would have to be cross party with an independent chair who has professional competence in the building control sector.

3.6 Better Guidance

Please refer to Chapter 3.6 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q131a. To what extent do you agree that standing advice, separate to but complementing Approved Document B and the Procedural Guidance, for use at the local level would be helpful?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q131b. If you agree please specify all areas it would be helpful to address.

3.7 Fire Safety Information (Regulation 38)

Please refer to Chapter 3.7 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q132a. To what extent do you agree that the application of Regulation 38 should be extended to material alterations and/or other types of building work?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q132b. If you agree, please specify which types of work.

Any alterations that have an affect on the fire safety provisions or means of escape to a building should be included.

Q133. To what extent do you agree that the building control body should have to approve the fire safety information to be handed over?

- Strongly agree

- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q134. To what extent do you agree that a review of the Regulation 38 information should be included in any formal consultation requirements between the building control body and the Fire and Rescue Authority prior to the issue of a completion or final certificate?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q135. To what extent do you agree that there should be a requirement for the developer to provide a formal notice to the building control body that fire information has been handed over (including confirmation from the Responsible Person to that effect)?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q136. To what extent do you agree that further guidance would be useful, for example through a British Standards such as BS 8644?

- Strongly agree

- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q137. Overall, please state which of the three options is your preference.

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3
- None

Please explain the reason/s for your preference:

A formal notice would be a signpost that this information has been passed and also ensure that it was done as a final certificate could not be issues without this.

3.8 Impacts

Please refer to Chapter 3.8 of the Fire Safety Consultation document when responding to this set of questions.

Q138a. If implemented, to what extent do you agree that the changes would provide benefits to your work?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree

- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q138b. Please specify how.

Any strengthening in the requirements for building control bodies to consult in a timely fashion with fire service's on key fire safety issues during alterations and building works to premises has to be a step forward. It is currently too easy for buildings to be altered with little or no consultation with the FRS. Late consultations are frequent and cause issues with sub-standard fire safety precautions being included to save money by developers.

Q139a. If implemented, what extent do you agree the changes would result in any additional costs to your organisation?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q139b. Please specify how.

The fire service should not incur costs through these changes.

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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

21 September 2020

Statement of Assurance 2019/20

Report of Deputy Chief Executive

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with the 2019/20 Statement of Assurance (SoA) for approval prior to publication.

Background

2. Guidance has been issued via the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2012) on the content of the Statement of Assurance.
3. The approval and publication of a SoA is a National Framework requirement.

The Statement of Assurance (SoA)

4. The SoA forms part of the Authority's Assurance Framework and complements the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which was approved by the Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting held on 28 July 2020.
5. To avoid duplication, where assurances are provided by the AGS or other published governance documentation, a hyperlink reference has been made within the SoA as opposed to repeating information.
6. The 2019/20 SoA is attached at Appendix A.

Recommendation

7. Members are recommended to **approve** the 2019/20 Statement of Assurance.

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County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Statement of Assurance



Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Foreword

Welcome to our annual Statement of Assurance. Our Statement of Assurance provides you, our communities, with the reassurance that in 2019/20 we met all our commitments to you as we strive to have the 'safest people and safest places' in every part of our Service area.

During 2019/20 the fire and rescue sector continued to face significant challenges and risks, from increased flooding and fire activity, to the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, we have implemented innovative ways to continue delivering our core functions, as well as continuing to develop our people and improve our leadership and culture.

We continue to influence strong partnership working in all we do and to collaborate with our colleagues in the Police, Ambulance Service and neighbouring fire and rescue services, as well as taking a leading role in the Local Resilience Forum.

During 2019/20 we have continued to invest in our community safety activity through our emergency response crews and Community Risk Officers who carry out home visits to give safety advice and install smoke alarms. We also operate an innovative model where crews carry out fire safety audits of businesses which complements the activity of our dedicated Business Fire Safety Team.

We consulted with our communities on future ways of working from December 2019 to March 2020 as part of the review of our three-year Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and listened to your views to help us decide how best to use our resources to meet the risks faced in our communities.

As Chair of County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority and Chief Fire Officer of County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, we are satisfied that, during 2019/20 our business has been conducted in accordance with proper standards and law and that public money was properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. Additionally, we are satisfied that the Authority has done everything within its power to comply with the requirements of the 2018 Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

John Robinson
Chair of the Combined Fire Authority

Stuart Errington
Chief Fire Officer

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Purpose

The Statement of Assurance confirms the adequacy of the arrangements of County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) in managing its financial, governance and operational obligations for the year 2019/2020. It also evaluates the adherence of the Service to the Fire and Rescue National Framework 2018.

How do we make our judgements?

In looking at our obligations we have made a judgement on each based on the following:

Fully	The requirements of applicable legislation and guidance are being consistently met.
Substantially	Where legislation and guidance are not being met there is minimal risk to the Fire Authority discharging associated duties and powers for the provision of a fire and rescue service.
Partially	The requirements of applicable legislation and guidelines are being inconsistently applied exposing the Fire Authority to considerable risk in discharging the necessary duties and powers associated with the provision of a fire and rescue service.

Financial Assurance

It is the view of CDDFRS that, at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, requirements associated with the appropriate management of financial matters were **fully met**.

How did we show this?

The Fire Authority places significant importance in ensuring that its financial management arrangements are in line with the expectations of a public body.

An annual, independent audit is undertaken to review the Fire Authority's Statement of Accounts, which summarise the financial position of the Fire Authority at the end of the financial year and performance throughout the year.

During 2019/20, the Service undertook a range of "reasonable worst case" planning assumptions exercises based on differing levels of government funding, aligning them to fluctuations in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and highlighting possible options to the Fire Authority for their scrutiny.

The primary function of the external auditor is to express an opinion as to whether the Fire Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement. However, the auditor also has responsibility for assessing whether the Fire Authority has reliable systems of control in place and the arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.

The 2019/20 Statement of Accounts was considered and approved by the Fire Authority's Audit and Risk Committee on 28 July 2020. [You can read the Statement of Accounts here.](#)

The accounts are audited by independent external auditors who provide a view on the information contained in the accounts being 'true and fair'. The auditor considers whether the Authority has demonstrated it has delivered value for money prior to signing the audit statement. You can read the [Annual Audit Letter – audit of accounts here.](#)

Further information about how the Service implements financial controls can be found in our [Constitution](#).

Governance Assurance

It is the view of CDDFRS that, at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, requirements associated with appropriate business practice, high standards of conduct and sound governance were **fully met**.

How did we show this?

Our governance arrangements

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority is a combined authority created by the Durham Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1996.

Membership comprises of twenty-one elected councillors from Durham County Council and four from Darlington Borough Council. The Fire Authority is a legal body with statutory duties and responsibilities, including the scrutiny of the Service as a whole. The Fire Authority is responsible for setting the strategic direction, policies and priorities of the Service.

You can [find out more about the Fire Authority on our website](#).

Our legal responsibilities

The primary legislation governing the Fire and Rescue Service is covered by the following:

- [Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004](#)
- [Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#)
- [Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#)
- [Fire and Rescue Service \(Emergencies\)\(England\) Order 2007](#)
- [Localism Act 2011](#)
- [Police and Crime Act 2017](#)

The main legislative provisions which determine the functions of the Fire Authority include the following:

- Promoting fire safety
- Extinguishing fires and protecting life and property
- Rescuing people from road traffic collisions (and a large range of other risks determined through the Emergencies Order)
- Responding to other types of emergencies
- Entering into 'reinforcement' schemes with other fire authorities for mutual assistance

- Assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning; and in this regard to:
 - Put in place emergency plans
 - Put in place business continuity management arrangements
 - Put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency
 - Share information with other local responders to enhance coordination
 - Co-operate with other local responders to enhance coordination and efficiency.

The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England sets out the Government's priorities and objectives for Fire and Rescue Authorities in England. The National Framework outlines the high-level expectations although it does not require a detailed account of operational matters which are best determined locally.

The key priorities established by the Framework are:

- The identification and assessment of a range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks including those of a cross border, multi authority and/or a national nature;
- The provision for prevention and protection activities and the appropriate response to incidents within County Durham and Darlington;
- Collaboration with the communities of County Durham and Darlington and a wide range of partners both locally and nationally to deliver a fire and rescue service;
- Ensuring effective business continuity arrangements are in place which include the provision of national resilience assets;
- Being accountable to the communities of County Durham and Darlington for the service we provide through an annual Statement of Assurance.

[The full 2018 document can be found at the following link: **Fire and Rescue National Framework for England**](#)

The Fire Authority is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Fire Authority also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvements in the way in which its functions are exercised.

Management of Risk

The National Framework requires the formulation of an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which captures and publishes the Fire Authority's plans to meet current and future risks to our communities.

The framework provides that the Fire Authority must hold their Chief Fire Officer to account for delivery of the Fire and Rescue Service, and that the Fire Authority must have in place arrangements to ensure that their decisions are open to scrutiny.

When preparing the IRMP we follow a process introduced by the Government to provide a modern, flexible approach to the provision of Fire and Rescue Services based upon locally identified need, aligned to risk and demand. The assessment of risk is the initial stage of the IRMP process and requires quantitative and qualitative analysis of hazards and threats. The processes we have adopted use a combination of risk modelling software, historical data and professional judgement to make an assessment of impact and consequence with likelihood that an event will occur, ensuring that a thorough analysis has been completed. We take into account local community and risk information by creating Station and Division Profiles which feed into our risk management process. We outline our approach, the risks and the associated analysis in our Community Risk Profile.

The IRMP delivers on our analysis of the Community Risk Profile, that is aligned to our Service Strategies to effectively manage the risks identified over the period.

[You can read our current Community Risk Profile here.](#)

[You can read our current IRMP here.](#)

When setting the Service's strategic priorities, the Fire Authority refer to the IRMP to ensure that our resources are directed to where the risk analysis tell us they are needed.

Organisational governance

The Fire Authority, as a public body, places significant emphasis on ensuring that effective governance arrangements are in place.

Governance is concerned with how the Fire Authority manages its affairs on a day to day basis including business practices, standards of conduct and overall management procedures.

The Fire Authority operates in accordance with a Code of Corporate Governance that sets out the approach it takes to ensuring it operates in accordance with appropriate standards and frameworks. [The Fire Authority's Code of Corporate Governance is available to read here.](#)

To demonstrate how we have met our governance obligations the Fire Authority publishes an Annual Governance Statement that sets out the key governance issues that have been identified during the financial year. The Fire Authority works towards mitigating these risks as part of its approach to ensuring an effective governance framework is in place. [You can read our Annual Governance Statement here.](#)

The Fire Authority is committed to being fully transparent in accordance with the principles of good governance and legal requirements. [You can see our full transparency information on our website by clicking here.](#)

Operational Assurance

It is the view of CDDFRS that, at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, the requirements associated with our operational functions were **fully met**.

How did we show this?

Our services to the community

The primary legislation associated with fire and rescue services in England and Wales is the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 which sets out the statutory responsibilities of the Authority for providing a fire and rescue service that has the people, equipment and training needed to carry out the following core functions:

Promoting fire safety (community safety) – the provision of information, advice and encouragement on the prevention of fires, restricting the spread of fires in buildings and the means of escape from fires. We use our data and information from partner agencies to identify members of the public who are at the greatest risk from fire and we deliver Safe and Wellbeing Visits to support them. As part of this work we provide well-being assessments and make referrals to partners where additional support needs are identified. We also carry out fire safety, road safety and water safety talks in schools and work with partner agencies to keep our communities safe.

Fire safety regulatory enforcement (business fire safety) – Our firefighters and fire safety officers undertake inspections of workplaces providing advice and guidance to owners and occupiers to enable them to be compliant with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, ensuring our communities are safe, using enforcement action where necessary. We train and qualify our staff in compliance with the national framework for business fire safety regulators.

Emergency response – We respond to emergencies including fires, road traffic collisions, air and rail crashes, water rescues and flooding, hazardous chemical incidents and many other types of emergencies. Our firefighters regularly train, maintain and test equipment to ensure they remain ready to respond to emergencies at all times.

We also work closely with our partners such as Durham Constabulary, the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS), local councils and our neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services as part of the Joint Emergency Service Interoperability Principles (JESIP) to ensure we can respond effectively and competently to any emergency.

Our Organisational Performance Framework is underpinned by our Operational Assurance Framework that sets out our approach to quality assuring that we can respond effectively and competently to the range of incidents we may be called to attend. A number of key performance indicators (KPIs) are used to monitor performance of our emergency response arrangements. Managers at all levels are accountable for managing the day to day performance of their fire stations overseen by their District Teams and the Emergency Response Manager.

The Operational Assurance Group (OAG) scrutinise performance and report, by exception, to the Performance and Programme Board (PPB) and the Service Leadership Team. Members play a key role in scrutinising performance through regular reports and presentations to the Performance Committee and the full Fire Authority.

In 2019/20 we have improved the process of undertaking our Operational Readiness Audits (OpeRA), where we assess the operational readiness of our stations across five areas (Prevention, Protection, Response, Efficiency and People).

The OAG exists to monitor, report and act on the outcomes from active monitoring and incident debriefs and this feeds into both national operational learning and joint organisational learning. Membership of the group is drawn from a cross-section of key departments with the chair of the OAG reporting quarterly to the PPB. Outcomes from multi-agency debriefs are routinely shared.

Community & Business Safety (Prevention & Protection) Assurance

All prevention activities carried out by the central Community Safety team are subject to both internal and external annual quality assurance, as well as performance being reviewed at all Section meetings with an overview provided at PPB. In 2019/20 we have maintained our ISO 9001 accreditation.

A comprehensive Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) exists to support our protection activities, underpinned by an ISO9001 accredited Quality Management System. The RBIP is underpinned by a full suite of procedures and practice notes which give guidance to staff enforcing statutory fire safety legislation. We have taken account of our legal duties and guidance from the Fire and Rescue Services Act, the Fire Safety Order, National Framework, National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and Local Government Association (LGA) Circulars and any other relevant guidance. External ISO audits provide assurance that we are doing what we say we will do.

The RBIP is refreshed annually using intelligence gained from a range of sources including national guidance and statistical data, as well as local and national trends. As well as local intelligence gained from engagement with partners and post incident audits, we also utilise the specialist CFRMIS (Community Fire Risk Management Information System) software to inform the RBIP.

A well-established Operational Risk Information (ORI) information gathering process and programme exists to capture important information on risks that firefighters may face when responding to emergencies. This information is made available via appliance mobile data terminals (MDT). Processes exist to ensure premises risks identified by fire safety inspectors are shared with emergency response managers for onward dissemination to our firefighters to ensure we can respond effectively to any incidents at those premises.

Health & Safety Assurance

CDDFRS have a proactive culture of reporting near misses and cause for concerns as part of our commitment of improving H&S and the services approach to continuous improvement. We have an established suite of key health and safety (H&S) performance indicators that enable us to closely monitor performance at all levels. The indicators cover areas such as personal and vehicle accidents, and violence at work. Staff across the Service can access the information via SharePoint and the performance management software. The Assurance Manager produces a quarterly H&S report which is reported to the SLT and is also discussed at the Joint H&S Committee which is attended by the Representative Bodies and CFA Member Champion.

In 2019/20 we experienced an increase in the number of accidents to personnel when compared to the previous year, however we are able to report that the majority of these accidents were of a very minor nature and did not require additional medical treatment or absence from work. We also experienced a slight increase in the number of vehicle accidents, with many of them being of a minor nature and occurring during slow speed manoeuvres.

Our Operational Assurance Framework illustrates how the learning outcomes from internal and external events identified through accident investigations, debriefs, active monitoring reports and stakeholder engagement are implemented via forums such as the OAG, PPB, the Corporate Wellbeing Group and the quarterly Joint H&S Committee. Information is shared with staff via Organisation Learning Posts and H&S Newsflashes.

We have an established programme of proactive quarterly station inspections, undertaken jointly with the Representative Bodies, and internal audits led by the Assurance Section to provide assurance on the effectiveness of our H&S management arrangements. Our OpeRA also provide a further level of quality assurance.

Training Assurance

A suite of key training performance indicators enables us to closely monitor staff competence in the risk critical skills required for a firefighter's role. Our District Management teams are responsible for quality assuring the competency levels of their staff and ensuring that the competency recording system is kept up to date. Outcomes of the quarterly district audits are reported to the Emergency Response Manager.

The OpeRA framework is used to provide assurance of the operational readiness of all our fire stations and includes dip-sampling of training records and also themed practical exercises undertaken at the Training Centre to further quality assure the competency of firefighters.

All internal and external delegates attending our training courses and development days are invited to complete evaluation forms. These are analysed by the Training Manager and used to inform improvements in delivery.

In 2019/20 our training section maintained the ISO 9001 accreditation for its quality management systems.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a legal obligation to comply with the general equality duty. This incorporates nine protected characteristics age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

To meet our statutory obligations, when exercising our functions, we must aim to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In addition to the general duty, all public sector bodies are required to meet specific duties which are incorporated into the Public Sector Equality Duty which requires us to:

- Publish diversity information annually to demonstrate our compliance with the general duty;
- Prepare and publish specific and measurable equality objectives.

We are committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in both the service we deliver to the community and the employment of our staff. EDI is about understanding and respecting differences and ensuring the right people receive the right services. We also understand that a diverse workforce with individuals who can offer different skills, experience and knowledge will benefit us as an organisation and ensure we are able to meet the needs of the diverse community we serve.

We have published our strategic commitment to EDI and our equality objectives in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. This is a public declaration and commitment of how we plan to meet the duties placed upon us by equality and diversity legislation and best practice, in managing our staff and meeting the needs and wishes of our local population.

Our EDI action plan runs alongside the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and members of our EDI group are responsible for developing and implementing the action plan. [Further information about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion can be found here.](#)

Collecting and analysing equality data is an important way of developing our understanding about our employees and communities. [We produce an annual equality report](#) that shows how we comply with the general equality duty as well as publishing our gender pay gap, both of which are available on our website.

Our performance during 2019/20

The following tables provide an overview of our performance during 2019/20. [The latest statistics on fires, casualties, false alarms and non-fire incidents attended by all fire and rescue services in England are available online.](#)

Service Performance Indicators	2019/20	2018/19	Direction of travel from previous year
PI 01 - Deaths Arising from Accidental Fires in Dwellings	0	1	Improved
PI 02 – Primary Fires	1001	1024	Improved
PI 03 – Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires	229	248	Improved
PI 04 - Injuries Arising from Accidental Dwelling Fires	20	14	Regressed
PI 05 - Total Secondary Fires	2387	2914	Improved
PI 06 – Number of Response Standards Met	4	3	Improved
A. Dwelling Fires Attended Within 8 Minutes (Target 70%)	71.70%	67.6%	Improved
B. Dwelling Fires Attended Within 11 Minutes (Target 90%)	92.20%	87.3%	Improved
C. Non-Domestic Property Fires Attended Within 8 Minutes (Target 70%)	61.30%	73.3%	Regressed
D. Non-Domestic Property Fires Attended Within 11 Minutes (Target 90%)	84.20%	88.9%	Regressed
E. Road Traffic Collisions Attended Within 11 Minutes (Target 75%)	84.40%	85.8%	Regressed
F. Road Traffic Collisions Attended Within 15 Minutes (Target 90%)	95.50%	95.9%	Regressed
PI 07 – Number of Safe & Wellbeing Visits	19310	20131	Regressed
PI 09a Deliberate Primary Fires	505	480	Regressed
PI 09b Deliberate Secondary Fires	2129	2533	Improved
PI 10a Primary Fires in Non-Domestic Premises (excluding RRO question - HO method)	118	N/A	New PI
PI 10b Primary Fires in Non-Domestic Premises (Enforced under the FSO by CDDFRS)	86	N/A	New PI
PI 11a Fire Control Calls Received and Mobilised within 90 seconds	87.20%	87.8%	Regressed
PI 12 Retained Availability on Stations	71.40%	71.6%	Regressed
PI 14 False Alarms Caused by Automatic Fire Detection	692	813	Improved

PI 17 Number of Fire Safety Audits	2003	2179	Regressed
PI 42 - Proportion of Safe & Wellbeing Visits to High Risk People/Properties	81.30%	83.0%	Regressed
PI 69 – Number of Accidents to Personnel	15	20	Improved
PI 70 The Number of Hydrant Inspections	4946	5521	Regressed
PI 71 Number of Vehicle Accidents	27	26	Regressed

Our future plans

The last ten years has seen significant cuts to public spending and to continue offering a first-class FRS to people living, working and visiting County Durham and Darlington we must be innovative and do things differently. This means collaborating with partners more, looking at ways we can enhance and widen the traditional firefighter role, changing the way we recruit our people and developing our culture.

[Details on our future plans which includes our consultation on the next 3-year IRMP can be viewed here](#)

The impact of Covid – 19

As with all public sector organisations, the Covid -19 global pandemic has had a unique impact on our Service. Throughout this period, we have approached the challenges with professionalism, compassion and a great deal of resilience. We have led in the work of the County Durham and Darlington Local Resilience Forum (LRF), as well as the Regional LRFs, to bring organisations together to provide a collective response.

Financial

The Service incurred increased costs due to Covid-19 on additional personal protective equipment (PPE), staff resilience measures, additional cleaning and ICT support which were mitigated to an extent by government funding. The position going forward will not be clear until we are informed of future government funding and we understand the effect of the pandemic on council tax and business rates receipts.

Governance

As part of the Service's preparations for lockdown, the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) delegated powers, in line with our Constitution, to the Chief Fire Officer, Treasurer and Clerk to ensure that all key decisions could still be taken. Remote meetings were then introduced to allow the CFA to resume their usual duties, which were also made available to the public.

Operational

Due to our previous flu pandemic testing and business continuity planning the Service was highly prepared and coped well in terms of staffing throughout the period of lockdown. Absence levels remained manageable and therefore there was a minimal impact on our emergency response. The Service implemented measures to ensure that operational staff could distance from each other wherever possible, watches were kept separate and non-operational staff were able to work from home.

How we engage with our communities

You can get involved with the work of the Fire Authority by attending the public meetings that are held regularly by the Authority at our Headquarters. [You can find out more about the Fire Authority, its work and access documents from previous and future meetings on our website by clicking here.](#)

We value the views of our communities to ensure we are providing the service you need. We consult formally on the ways in which we propose to deliver services through the IRMP consultation document and this and more information about our plans and priorities can be found on our website: www.ddfire.gov.uk You can also find us on social media by searching for @CDDFRS

Access to information

CDDFRS is committed to being open, accountable and transparent and we constantly strive to develop a culture of greater openness and awareness.

More information on our arrangements in respect of access to data and information can be found on our website via the following link: [Access to Information](#)

How to pay a compliment or make a complaint

We aim to make it as easy as possible for people to let us know their views. Through listening and learning we improve the quality of the services we provide and encourage and recognise good practice by our staff.

We want to hear from people if they:

- Would like to compliment us on a job well done;
- Have a suggestion on how we might improve services;
- Feel we have fallen short of their expectations;
- Feel we have fallen short of the standards we set ourselves in dealing with complaints.

There are several ways in which you can compliment, comment or complain about our services either:

Online via our website: www.ddfire.gov.uk

By phone: 0845 305 8383

By email: ServiceHQ@ddfire.gov.uk

By post: County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
HQ,
Belmont Business Park,
Durham.
DH1 1TW

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

21 September 2020

Arson Reduction Team Progress

Report of the Area Manager, Community Risk Management

Purpose of Report

1. Following the introduction of the Arson Reduction Team (ART) in 2018, the purpose of this report is to inform members of the progress made by the ART and highlight the strategic benefits gained.

Background

2. In early 2018 a business case was presented to the Service Leadership Team to restructure Community Risk Management, the business case reallocated workloads and created savings in some posts which were reinvested into others, the result being a structure with greater capacity and resources better allocated to risk.
3. Part of the restructure allocated three dedicated posts into a multi-disciplinary team with responsibility for Fire Investigation, Arson Reduction and Young People, referred to in this report as the Arson Reduction Team (ART).
4. The new structure was approved and implemented in September 2018. This report provides a summary of progress made by the team and the strategic benefits gained.

Progress of the Arson Reduction Team

5. For several years leading up to the introduction of the ART there was a steady increase in primary and secondary fires as seen in Table 1 below. The table

also shows that following the introduction of the ART in September 2018, primary fires have begun to stabilise and there was a significant reduction in secondary fires during 2019/20.

Table 1: Primary and Secondary Fires 2015 to 2020

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Total Primary Fires	928	974	1058	1024	1002
Deliberate Primary Fires	403	462	551	480	505
Total Secondary Fires	2142	2152	2646	2915	2387
Deliberate Secondary Fires	1647	1718	2263	2534	2129

6. The ART have developed a three year 'Arson and deliberate fire reduction plan' to underpin the Service's Community Safety Strategy. This plan clearly sets out the strategic objectives of the ART, these are:
 - a. The development and communication of a clear local arson profile to indicate its prevalence, impact and economic cost to partners and communities.
 - b. Develop and implement effective local solutions for collaborative interventions.
 - c. Develop and implement effective solutions for partnership and community intervention.
 - d. Develop and implement effective solutions for intervention as a standalone fire and rescue service.
7. The introduction of the ART has provided an improved link between the Service and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) to ensure that national arson reduction initiatives are better supported locally with toolkits and resources provided to Emergency Response (ER) crews and the Communications Team.
8. The following are some examples of key areas of work delivered by the ART with partner organisations or internally which have provided benefits in the reduction of fires in the community.
9. In 2019/20 there were 505 deliberate primary fires, 60% (303) of these were road vehicles, with 42% (211) being cars. Following discussion with the Police, many of the vehicle fires in the East Coast area are suspected to be linked to the activity of Organised Crime Groups. The ART have agreed a forensic decision-making toolkit with the Police to focus fire investigation resources onto incidents with the greatest opportunity to maximise evidential recovery. Also,

all Police Crime Scene Investigators will be trained by the Fire Service to Skills for Justice L2 in Fire Investigation. Due to the high rate of deliberate vehicle fires, work in this area will continue to be a focus over the coming years.

10. The ART have worked with both Durham County Council (DCC) and Darlington Borough Council (DBC) to introduce an electronic fuel management reporting system on all fire stations to enable ER crews to report fly tipping/waste directly to the local authorities and for them to confirm when it has been removed. This has improved reporting, recording and the management of waste fuel in the community.
11. Working closely with housing associations and local authority bin collection services, Operation Gravity utilises new bin security technologies in high-risk wards with housing association premises to prevent bins from being stolen and reduce the opportunity for deliberate fires.
12. In partnership with Believe Housing, the ART have introduced Phoenix Fire Champions which involved working with 200, year 5/6 primary children in high priority areas for primary and secondary fires. This project provides education around the dangers and consequences of deliberate fires and the impact this has on their community. The successful outcomes of the project have been identified by the schools where teachers have seen a marked improvement in behaviour with the children involved which will reduce the risk of harm and build confidence in young people when decision making, with the hope that they will avoid peer pressure which could result in fire setting/arson. The project has also enabled the Service to engage positively with the local community by involving parents and carers in the project which helped to break down barriers and improve relationships with uniformed (blue light services) and create safe communities.
13. To establish working relationships with our education partners, the ART approached the strategic leads of education in County Durham and Darlington to enable the Service to develop relationships with all primary and secondary schools, giving us a platform to access and deliver education programmes to young people in Key Stage 2, 3 and 4.
14. The ART have collaborated with Durham Constabulary to develop the arson reduction 'challenge' session which is an intervention with young people aged between 10 and 16 years, who are identified as being involved in fire setting and anti-social behaviour (ASB). This ran in the Durham and Newton Aycliffe areas with a total of 35 young people and their parents and carers. Following this engagement, the Service saw a significant reduction in deliberate secondary fires by 83% in Newton Aycliffe and 79% in the Durham district area. The interventions have been so successful, that the ART have been recognised by Durham Constabulary and nominated for a Problem Orientated Policing Award along with their Police colleagues. This model is now offered as part of the ART formal education intervention offer.

15. All Crew and Watch managers are being trained to Skills for Justice L2 in Fire Investigation, this will improve quality of data in reports and analysis of fire trends.
16. Educational resources have been developed by the ART for use by ER crews to be delivered to young people, which supports Service campaigns around Easter and bonfire night and the NFCC campaign calendar.
17. The ART have worked with the Service Communications Team to deliver campaigns to support the NFCC campaign calendar and through targeted district based and seasonal initiatives.

Future work priorities for the ART

18. The Flexible Learning, Arson Messages & Education (FLAME) programme has been developed during the COVID-19 pandemic and will deliver a range of interventions and interactions to challenge fire setting and anti-social behaviours by children and young people within the community.
19. The 'challenge' interventions described above will be maintained across north and south divisions with children and young people.
20. Localised arson reduction plans will be developed for each fire station.
21. The ART are developing virtual workshops to enable the Service to continue to deliver their education programme during and after Covid-19.

Conclusion

22. The introduction of the multi-disciplined team for Fire Investigation, Arson Reduction and Young People has delivered significant improvements in partnership working, support for ER crews, improvements in public engagement and communication and multi-agency interventions to reduce arson and deliberate fires.
23. In the relatively short time since their introduction in September 2018, the Service has seen the rising trend of fires stabilise for primary fires and significantly reduce for secondary fires. This will need to be monitored to understand the longer-term impact.
24. The investment in the ART and the positive impact to date has supported the Service strategic priority to reduce fires and work towards the Service's vision of Safest People, Safest Places.

Recommendations

25. CFA members are requested to **note** the content of the report.

AM Keith Wanley, 0191 3755630

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County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

21 September 2020

Land at Fylands Bridge Bishop Auckland

Report of the Head of Corporate Resources

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Authority approval for the dedication of land adjacent to Bishop Auckland Community Fire Station to Durham County Council (DCC) for use as public highway.

Background

2. In February 2008 the Authority entered into a transfer of 0.8 hectares of land for the construction of Bishop Auckland Community Fire Station at Fylands Bridge, Bishop Auckland.
3. Within the transfer agreement there were positive benefits to the transferor which committed the Authority to construct a new access road to adoptable standards and to use best endeavours to ensure that the access road was adopted. A view of the partially constructed access road can be seen in fig. 1 below.
4. In 2019, the transferor of the land sought to ensure this covenant was met. Upon investigation by DCC highways department it was found that during the construction phase of the new fire station, the road had not been made up to adoptable standard along the full length as defined in the transfer agreement.
5. DCC highways team have assessed and estimated that works totalling £14,000 are required to meet the agreed standards.
6. In order to allow this work to be undertaken and for the access road to be adopted by DCC highways it is necessary for the Combined Fire Authority to grant approval for the dedication of the land to use as public highway.



Fig 1. Aerial view of Bishop Auckland Fire Station and adjacent access road.

Recommendations

7. Members are asked to **agree** to provide letter of dedication to be sent to Durham County Council to enable the access road for use as public highway.

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