



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

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**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