



6th Floor, Globe House,
89 Eccleston Square, London SW1V
1PN
Direct Line: 020 3513 0523
Fax: 020 3513 0650
Email:
zoe.billingham@hmicfrs.gov.uk

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