



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

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

15 September 2020

Dear colleague,

HMICFRS COVID-19 FRS INSPECTION: MEETINGS BY GOVERNANCE GROUP

I write to update you on our plans for our COVID-19 inspection. As outlined in the letter sent by Sir Thomas Winsor on 5 August 2020, the Home Secretary commissioned us to specifically consider the following:

- (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.

2. As part of this commission I would like to invite you to be interviewed with fellow chief fire officers within your respective governance group. The aim of these meetings is to understand the sector's overall response and how well it worked across boundaries and with other organisations. This will allow us to form a picture of the fire and rescue sector's overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic which we will capture in a national report. Our intention is to publish this national report alongside individual service ones in January 2021.

3. As the senior responsible officer for our inspections of fire and rescue services in England, I will conduct these meetings. A member of our fire and rescue service inspections portfolio team will take a record.

4. My executive assistant Steven Cieslewicz will be in touch to arrange these meetings, which will be held in the latter half of October 2020 at a time that is mutually convenient. It will be conducted entirely remotely as per our current inspection approach.

5. If you require any further information in the meantime, please contact Laura at lauraalicegibb@hmicfrs.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature reads "Zoë Billingham" in a cursive script.

Zoë Billingham
HM Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services