



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

6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Globe House,  
89 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PN  
Direct Line: 020 3513 0521  
Fax: 020 3513 0650  
Email: tom.winsor@hmicfrs.gov.uk

**Sir Thomas Winsor ws**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and  
Rescue Services

Chief Constables  
Chief Fire Officers  
Police and Crime Commissioners  
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners  
Chief Executives  
Chairs of Fire & Rescue Authorities  
Lead Fire and Rescue Authority Members  
Locally elected Mayors

18 January 2021

Dear Colleagues,

#### **HMICFRS INSPECTION ACTIVITY 2020/21**

On 6 November 2020, I wrote to you to advise you about how we expected to continue our work in light of the announcement about restrictions as a result of the pandemic. This letter provides you with a further update following the recent announcements by the Prime Minister and the devolved administrations.

2. Following those recent announcements, HMICFRS Board members considered a number of factors including the demand on our inspected sectors, the reported higher transmission rates of the virus variants, and the progress made with remote inspection activity over previous months.
3. The Board decided that in-person inspection activity should be suspended. Where possible and until 22 February 2021, planned inspections will continue using virtual methods only. Virtual inspection activity will be discussed with each force or service in advance, but the presumption is that it will continue.
4. Exceptions will of course exist, and I do not underestimate the difficulties you face as you continue to provide a vital service amidst the circumstances caused by the pandemic. Where particular difficulties are faced or where inspection activity requires appreciable input that is not sustainable or practicable, discussions can take place with your regional HMI. Decisions on whether to suspend planned virtual inspection activity will be taken on a case-by-case basis by the inspectorate.
5. It is important that we try to conduct as much virtual inspection activity as is possible in a way that supports our inspected sectors, and ultimately contributes to the service provided to the public. This evolving environment may become our new normal. I of course recognise the need to continue to adapt and be flexible whilst still contributing to the effectiveness and efficiency of police forces and fire and rescue services, in the public interest.
6. My Board colleagues and I will continue to discuss inspection plans against the changing operational circumstances to ensure they remain appropriate. Our inspection planning for 2021/22

continues, with a presumption of the full programme being implemented, pending approval by the Home Secretary, from 1 April 2021.

7. Once again, I offer my thanks and appreciation for your commitment during these changing times.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Sir Thomas Winsor WS**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services

Copied to: HMIs Home Office NFCC Chair NPCC Chair

DG, National Crime Agency LGA APCC

CEO, College of Policing Criminal Justice Chief Inspectors

