



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

**Sir Thomas Winsor**  
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

14 December 2021

Dear Colleagues,

### **HMICFRS ON-SITE INSPECTION ACTIVITY FROM 13 DECEMBER 2021**

On 8 March 2021, I wrote to you to advise you of our plans to gradually reintroduce on-site inspection activity, where necessary, from 12 April 2021. As you will be aware, ever since we have been carrying out our inspections through a blend of virtual and in-person activity. We have continued to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach, and we have a clear view of which of our activities can be carried out remotely, and which must be carried out in-person.

2. On Wednesday 8 December 2021, the Prime Minister announced a move to Plan B in England which included guidance to return to 'working from home where you can' from 13 December 2021.

3. We have reviewed our plans for inspection activity in light of this announcement. We will continue to carry out in-person activity where it cannot effectively be done remotely, and where there are activities that can be carried out remotely, we will take this approach. However, we do not expect this announcement to require a material change in the timing or nature of our planned activities over coming weeks.

4. The latest announcement brings together the guidance in relation to home working across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the same approach will be taken across all forces, services and other inspected bodies.

5. We are also aware of the different circumstances in which different areas may find themselves, in terms of local infection rates, demands on services, or your approach to the Plan B guidance in terms of your workforce. We will continue to liaise closely with your force or service before on-site inspection takes place, to ensure these factors are considered in our plans.

6. All planned on-site activity will continue to be risk assessed, and where in-person activity continues, we will work with each of you to ensure that these arrangements take account of your existing health and safety and testing requirements.

