



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

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**HMI Roy Wilsher**  
His Majesty's Inspector of Fire and  
Rescue Services

Chief Fire Officers  
Chairs of Fire Authorities  
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners  
Lead Fire Authority Members  
Locally elected Mayors  
Other FRS interested parties

31 July 2023

Dear colleague,

## Fire and Rescue Service Update

### Round 3

I write to inform you on progress of our third round of fire and rescue (FRS) inspections.

Inspection activity is now underway for the first 12 services in the programme. A further update to the inspection schedule for round 3 is set out in **Annex A**. This running order may be subject to change, which could be due to several reasons, including changes in performance or risk. Services affected by this will be informed of any planned changes at the earliest opportunity.

Further to my letter on 19 July 2023, advising of our intention to conduct a thematic inspection on the handling of misconduct allegations. Any service who would have received a staff survey for their scheduled inspection between September 2023 and January 2024 will now receive their HMICFRS staff survey week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 rather than alongside the document request. This is to avoid any conflict and confusion caused by having multiple staff surveys open at the same time.

Please contact your Chief of Staff, Mick Mason, [michael.mason1@hmicfrs.gov.uk](mailto:michael.mason1@hmicfrs.gov.uk) or Jo Hayden, [jo.hayden1@hmicfrs.gov.uk](mailto:jo.hayden1@hmicfrs.gov.uk), in the first instance if you wish to discuss it.

### Progress against recommendations

HMICFRS routinely monitors progress against the recommendations that we make to fire and rescue services in our inspection reports. From September 2023 the progress

services have made against recommendations issued to them in their individual inspection reports will be published on our website. The website will show the recommendations and whether or not they have been completed by the service or remain open. Please note that the recommendations made in the Values and Culture spotlight report, published earlier this year, will not be included in this update though will be included in future updates.

The status of recommendations is currently updated twice yearly, in September and March.

### **Sharing information with HMIs**

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you to raise any issues or allegations that come to light which may have a significant impact upon your service directly with your HMI. For example, an allegation of gross misconduct that has the potential to attract adverse media attention or impact upon the public confidence in the service and its staff. Similarly matters which affect your ability to keep the public safe, such as significant financial or operational pressures.

Finally I would like to remind you that Alex Hill, FRS Portfolio Director, will be leaving us next month. Alex will be replaced by Richard Jolley from 7 August 2023. I would like to thank Alex for his hard work and support since I joined the inspectorate, I wish him well for the future.

Should you need any further information please contact either me or your Chief of Staff.

Thank you for your continued support of our inspection programme.

Yours sincerely,



### **HMI Roy Wilsher OBE QFSM**

His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary  
His Majesty's Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services