
REPORT AUTHOR: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: HMICFRS CONSULTATION

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Background Papers: Proposed Fire and Rescue Services Inspection Programme and Framework 2018/19

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL	✓	FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES		EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	OTHER (please specify)	✓
	New	CORE BRIEF	

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE

To inform the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) of the public consultation for the Fire and Rescue Services inspection programme and framework presented by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the FRA:

1. Receive the Service considerations for a response to the public consultation.
 2. Agree if the FRA wish to respond to the public consultation and, if so, to delegate completion of the response to the Chair due to the timescales.
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1. Background

- 1.1 In July 2017, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) extended its remit to include inspections of the 45 Fire and Rescue Services in England.
- 1.2 These inspections will assess and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs). This includes how well FRSs

prevent, protect against and respond to fires and other emergencies and how well they look after the people who work for the Service.

- 1.3 An inspection programme is being developed with the sector through Reference Groups. Over 50 members of Fire and Rescue Service staff will be seconded to be sector experts to support the inspection programme.
- 1.4 Three FRSs have been chosen to pilot the inspection process: Staffordshire, West Yorkshire and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Services. The pilots are expected to have taken place by April 2018.
- 1.5 Following the pilots, the inspections will take place within 2018/19 across three tranches; Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) have been programmed within tranche one, with an inspection within summer 2018, with specific dates to be confirmed.
- 1.6 The significance of the HMICFRS inspection programme has already been recognised within BFRS. The temporary restructure of Principal Officers and corporate managers within this Service from September 2017 included a responsibility for inspection with one of our Strategic Operational Commanders. From experience of previous inspection programmes and dialogue with colleagues within the Police, there is likely to be considerable resource implications to deliver and support this inspection process.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 A national public consultation opened on 19 December 2017 and will continue to 19 February 2018. The aim of this consultation is to receive considered views of the proposed inspection programme.
- 2.2 The consultation document is provided with this paper, together with the draft inspection questions as **Appendix A**. These documents can also be found on the HMICFRS website: <https://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/>

3. Response

- 3.1 There are seven questions presented within the public consultation document. **Appendix B** provides Members with detail on the questions and the Service considerations for a response to them.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the FRA:
 1. Receive the Service considerations for a response to the public consultation.
 2. Agree if the FRA wish to respond to the public consultation and, if so, to delegate completion of the response to the Chair due to the timescales.

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