



19 December 2017

Jason Thelwell
Chief Fire Officer
Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

Dear Jason

Consultation on HMICFRS' proposed inspection programme and framework for fire and rescue services 2018/19

I am writing to seek your views on HMICFRS' proposed inspection programme and framework fire and rescue service for 2018/19. This consultation is the first for the new fire and rescue service inspection programme; we welcome your experience, expertise and insight to help us shape this important work. Thank you to you and your colleagues for all of your help so far.

I wrote to you on 8 December to let you know we have selected Suffolk, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire fire and rescue services for the pilot inspections. We will adapt our proposed approach from the pilot inspections and from this consultation. The attached consultation document includes 7 questions we would welcome your response to.

Please submit your answers to this consultation, together with any other comments, by email to: HMICFRSfireinspectionprogramme@hmic.gsi.gov.uk, no later than 1700 on 19 February 2018.

If you prefer, you can post responses to the Chief Operating Officer, HMICFRS, 6th floor, Globe House, 89 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PN.

Inspection preparation conference

As you know, we are hosting an inspection preparation conference on 31 January 2018. The event will include workshops to help services prepare for the inspections planned for 2018/19, with time for group discussions on the pre-fieldwork, fieldwork and post-fieldwork stages of inspection. The event will also offer you the opportunity to meet your Service Liaison Lead and the HMICFRS fire and rescue service inspection portfolio team.

The event will be a tactical and detailed run-through of the inspection process and as such, is not aimed at those at chief officer level. We will arrange another event for all chief fire officers and chairs of fire authorities before the first tranche of inspections start.

I would like to invite you to nominate two representatives from your fire and rescue service to attend this event. We think this event will be most useful to the person you have nominated as operational point of contact for your service's inspection process. You may also wish to send your senior strategic lead for inspections.

The event will be held on Wednesday 31 January 2018, 9:00 – 16:30, in central London. Further details, including the full agenda, will be sent to the representatives you nominate by 8 January 2018. I would be grateful if you could confirm who will be attending for your service by emailing FRS@hmic.gsi.gov.uk

I am grateful to all those who have given their time and expertise to develop the inspection regime to date. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you all in the New Year.

Wishing you all a peaceful festive period and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely



Zoë Billingham
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary
Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services