



6th Floor, Globe House,
89 Eccleston Square,
London, SW1V 1PN
Direct Line: 020 3513 0524
Fax: 020 3513 0650
Email: zoe.billingham@hmic.gsi.gov.uk

Zoë Billingham BA Hons (Oxon)
Her Majesty's Inspector of
Constabulary
Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire and
Rescue Services

Chief fire officers
Chairs of fire authorities
Police, fire and crime commissioners
Police and crime commissioners
Lead fire authority members
Locally elected mayors
Other FRS interested parties

27 November 2018

Dear Colleague

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE INSPECTIONS UPDATE

I am writing to keep you updated with the fire and rescue service (FRS) inspections.

Tranche one reports

2. I'd like to thank all the tranche one services for completing the pre-publication checks of their draft reports and returning comments to us in a timely manner. We are now finalising the reports and preparing them for publication on 14 December 2018.

3. As advised previously, each chief fire officer will receive an embargoed copy of their finalised service report at least 24 hours prior to it being published. A copy of the report will also be sent to the chair of the respective fire and rescue authorities.

HMICFRS FRS web content

4. We are continuing to develop our website with more FRS related content and have now completed individual landing pages for each service. We would like to invite you to review your content and advise us of any changes you would like to be made. You can access your service's page by selecting your service from the map on this page: www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/fire-and-rescue-services/

5. Please only include amendments that are corrections to factual inaccuracy, not new or additional text. Please also review the chief fire officer photo on this page and give us a new high-resolution photo if need be. Please send any comments and/or an updated CFO profile picture by 4 December 2018 to: HMICInspectionsAdmin@hmicfrs.gov.uk.

FRS inspections event

6. As we approach the mid-way point in the inspection programme, I thought it would be a good time to bring the chief fire officers and fire and rescue authority chairs together again to discuss progress and emerging themes. We will also share our developing thinking about the corporate governance inspection. This event will be held on **21 January 2019** in London. Invitations and further details will follow as soon as possible. I would be grateful if you could keep this date free to attend.

Data collection

7. I am aware that you may be expecting a third data request to be made this month. I have decided to postpone this until January to allow my teams to finalise work with CIPFA to improve the way we request and gather FRS financial data. We will discuss this in detail with colleagues on the Technical Advisory and External Reference groups before we make a further data request to make sure this change will be of value to the sector as well as our inspections.

8. As before, the request will be made to all services. Further information will be provided nearer the time.

Tranche three fieldwork

9. The dates of the tranche three inspections are set out in the table below. Please let us know of any weeks to avoid during this period for your service by emailing InspectionsAdmin@HMICFRS.gov.uk We will then contact your service liaison officer (SLO) to discuss the most appropriate inspection dates for your service.

Tranche 3 Activity	Timing
Data request	January 2019
Document request	January
Self assessment deadline	April
In service Discovery activity	April – June
Strategic briefing	Two weeks before inspection
Fieldwork	May - July
Pre-publication checks	October
Publication	November/December

10. If you require any further information about the inspection programme then please do not hesitate to contact either me or Laura Gibb, the portfolio director via (LauraAlice.Gibb@hmicfrs.gov.uk).

11. Thank you again for your continued support of our inspection programme.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoë Billingham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Z'.

Zoë Billingham

HM Inspector of Constabulary

HM Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services