

HMICFRS Recommendations and status updates as at 15 December 2021Recommendations from 'Fire and Rescue Service inspections 2018/19, Summary of findings from Tranche 2' HMICFRS 20 June 2019

Recommendation 1

As soon as is practicable the Home Office, National Fire Chiefs Council and Local Government Association, in consultation with the Fire Standards Board and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, should establish a programme of work that will result in consistency in the four priority areas. (1. identifying and determining risk as part of the IRMP process; 2. identifying and measuring emergency response standards and approaches; 3. defining what are high-risk premises for the purposes of fire protection; and 4. setting an expectation for how frequently high-risk premises, and parts of those premises, should be audited for compliance with fire safety legislation). By December 2020, there will be completion or significant progress in the four priority areas specified above, towards a common set of definitions and standards for fire and rescue services to adopt and apply as soon as reasonably practicable, for each of the four priority areas.

HMICFRS update, 15 December 2021

The Home Office confirmed it has funded the NFCC's community risk programme, which is designed to develop a single method for services to use so that they identify and assess risk in the same way. The programme will also provide support to services so that they can use this method successfully. The NFCC told us that it expected the community risk programme work to be completed by the end of 2021/22. In February 2021, the Fire Standards Board published the fire standards for operational competence, operational learning and operational preparedness. In September 2021, the Fire Standards Board published its protection standard. Since then, a range of guidance documents have been published which are designed to support services in their implementation of the standard. In addition to its continued work on high risk premises, the NFCC has been coordinating the building risk review programme. This programme provides the most up-to-date information on a subset of buildings that will be in the jurisdiction of the new building safety regulator. These projects are still in progress and the specific requirements of this recommendation must be met in its entirety for it to be considered as complete

Recommendation 2

As part of the next Spending Review, the Home Office in consultation with the Fire and Rescue Sector should address the deficit in the fire sector's national capacity and capability to support change.

HMICFRS update, 15 December 2021

Complete

Recommendations from 'State of Fire and Rescue: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2019' HMICFRS 15 January 2020

Recommendation 1

(1) By June 2020 the Home Office, in consultation with the fire and rescue sector, should review and with precision determine the roles of:

- (a) fire and rescue services; and
- (b) those who work in them.

HMICFRS update, 15 December 2021

The Home Office intends to consult on this matter in its forthcoming White Paper on fire reform.

Recommendation 2

(2) By June 2020, the Home Office, the Local Government Association (LGA), the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and trade unions should consider whether the current pay negotiation machinery requires fundamental reform. If so, this should include the need for an independent pay review body and the future of the 'Grey Book'.

HMICFRS update, 15 December 2021

The Home Office intends to consult on this matter in its forthcoming White Paper on fire reform.

Recommendation 3

(3) By September 2020, the Home Office should consider the case for legislating to give chief fire officers operational independence. In the

meantime, it should issue clear guidance, possibly through an amendment to the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, on the demarcation between those responsible for governance and operational decision making by the chief fire officer.

HMICFRS update, 15 December 2021

The Home Office is considering ways to make progress against this recommendation.

Recommendation 4

(4) By December 2020, the National Fire Chiefs Council, with the Local Government Association, should produce a code of ethics for fire and rescue services. The code should be adopted by every service in England and considered as part of each employee's progression and annual performance appraisal.

HMICFRS update, 15 December 2021

Complete