

# Part 3: Our reports



# Our reports

In July 2017, the Inspectorate's remit was extended to include inspections of England's fire and rescue services. This is my third annual report on the fire and rescue inspections we have carried out.



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On 15 December 2021, we published 13 reports.

The reports we publish fulfil our statutory duty to inspect and report on the effectiveness and efficiency of fire and rescue authorities in England.

Every report has been published in full on our website and given to the relevant fire and rescue service.



# Reports published

## February 2021 to December 2021



Published:  
December  
2021

### **Fire and Rescue Service: Effectiveness, efficiency and people 2021**

Thirteen individual reports on the fire and rescue services we inspected in England from February to August 2021.

All HMIs

### **Revisit letters**

When we identify a cause of concern, we require the service to produce an action plan to resolve it. We monitor progress against this plan. As for causes of concern relating to effectiveness, we usually carry out a revisit – and further revisits if necessary – to assess progress against each plan. Following each revisit, the regional HMI provides written feedback to the chief fire officer. Each letter is published in full on our website. We sent and published revisit letters in respect of:

- Devon and Somerset FRS;
- Gloucestershire FRS;
- Northamptonshire FRS; and
- West Sussex FRS.

We didn't revisit Hampshire and Isle of Wight FRS. We did, however, publish a letter summarising our findings on the progress made by the service after we gave it a cause of concern.





# References

## Part 1

- 1 *Detailed analysis of fires attended by fire and rescue services, England, April 2020 to March 2021*, National statistics, Home Office, 30 September 2021. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/detailed-analysis-of-fires-attended-by-fire-and-rescue-services-england-april-2020-to-march-2021/detailed-analysis-of-fires-attended-by-fire-and-rescue-services-england-april-2020-to-march-2021>
- 2 More information on causes of concern is available in Part 2, Understanding our graded judgments.
- 3 *Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Report*, Grenfell Tower Inquiry, October 2019. Available at: <https://www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/phase-1-report>
- 4 More information on areas for improvement is available in Part 2, Understanding our graded judgments
- 5 For more information about our public perceptions survey and the data used in this report, please see: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/fire-and-rescue-services/data/about-the-data-2021-22/>
- 6 *Concluding Part One of the Police and Crime Commissioner Review*, Home Office, 16 March 2021. Available at: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-03-16/hcws849>
- 7 *Responding to the pandemic: The fire and rescue service's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020*, HMICFRS, March 2021. Available at: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/responding-to-the-pandemic-fire-and-rescue-service-response-covid-19-pandemic-2020.pdf>
- 8 *Letter from Sir Thomas Winsor: marauding terrorist attacks*, HMICFRS, 28 September 2021. Available at: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/letter-from-sir-thomas-winsor-marauding-terrorist-attacks/>
- 9 *Fit for the Future*, National Employers (England), the NFCC and the LGA, October 2020. Available at: <https://www.ukfrs.com/fit-for-the-future>
- 10 *Core Code of Ethics for Fire and Rescue Services*, National Fire Chiefs Council, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and Local Government Association, May 2021. Available at: [https://www.ukfrs.com/sites/default/files/2021-05/CoreCodeofEthicsEnglandFRSMay21\\_0.pdf](https://www.ukfrs.com/sites/default/files/2021-05/CoreCodeofEthicsEnglandFRSMay21_0.pdf)
- 11 Building Safety Bill, UK Parliament. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/building-safety-bill>
- 12 According to Article 3 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005/1541, "responsible person" means:
  - (a) in relation to a workplace, the employer, if the workplace is to any extent under his control;
  - (b) in relation to any premises not falling within paragraph (a):
    - (i) the person who has control of the premises (as occupier or otherwise) in connection with the carrying on by him of a trade, business or other undertaking (for profit or not); or
    - (ii) the owner, where the person in control of the premises does not have control in connection with the carrying on by that person of a trade, business or other undertaking.
- 13 More information on areas for improvement is available in Part 2, Understanding our graded judgments.
- 14 A dual contract in this context is an arrangement in which a firefighter not only has a full-time contract with a fire and rescue service, but also an on call contract with either the same or another service. This means that not only can they work their usual full-time working pattern, but that they can also be on call at certain times. This means that they can be on call during some of their rest days from their full-time job. Of course, safety is paramount and the employing service needs to assure itself that those who are coming to work are safe and sufficiently rested to do so.

## Part 2

- 1 *Fire and Rescue National Framework for England*, Home Office, May 2018. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-national-framework-for-england--2>
- 2 Under section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Secretary of State is required to produce the *Fire and Rescue National Framework for England*. The framework establishes that each FRS must produce an integrated risk management plan. Each plan must specify, among other things: all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks; how the service will allocate resources to prevention, protection and response; what service it must provide, including resource allocation for mitigating risks; and its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- 3 A fire safety audit is an examination of premises and its documentation to make sure that it complies with the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- 4 Fire and rescue authorities must have a risk-based inspection programme to make sure that they comply with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. *Approved Standards: Code of Ethics*, Fire Standards Board, May 2021. Available at 2(1) and (2) of the Home Office *Fire and Rescue National Framework* establish that fire and rescue authorities must assess all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect their communities.
- 5 *Competency Framework for Fire Safety Regulators*, National Fire Chiefs Council, March 2020. Available at: <https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/NFCC%20Guidance%20publications/Protection/Competence Framework 2020 pdf march 2020.pdf>
- 6 *Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Report*, Grenfell Tower Inquiry, October 2019. Available at: <https://www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/phase-1-report>
- 7 *Approved Standards: Protection*, Fire Standards Board, September 2021. Available at: <https://www.firestandards.org/approved-standards/protection-fsd-pro01/>
- 8 Building Safety Bill, 5 July 2021. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/building-safety-bill>
- 9 *Approved Standards: Prevention*, Fire Standards Board, July 2021. Available at: <https://www.firestandards.org/approved-standards/prevention-fsd-pre01/>
- 10 *Person-centred framework*, NFCC, 2021. Available at: <https://www.ukfrs.com/guidance/person-centred-framework>
- 11 CRP Definition of Risk Project, NFCC. Available at: <https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/Definition-of-Risk>
- 12 These problems were covered in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report.
- 13 *National Joint Council For Local Authorities' Fire and Rescue Services, Scheme of conditions of service. The Grey Book*, 6th edition, Local Government Association.
- 14 *Approved Standards: Community Risk Management Planning*, Fire Standards Board, May 2021. Available at: <https://www.firestandards.org/approved-standards/community-risk-management-planning-fss-rmp01/>
- 15 Combined fire and rescue authorities are also known as standalone fire and rescue authorities. This reflects that they are not part of another organisation such as a county council.
- 16 'Culture and behaviour in the English National Health Service: overview of lessons from a large multimethod study', *BMJ Quality and Safety*. Available at: <https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/23/2/106>
- 17 *Core Code of Ethics for Fire and Rescue Services*, National Fire Chiefs Council, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and Local Government Association, May 2021. Available at: <https://www.ukfrs.com/core-code-ethics>
- 18 *Approved Standards: Code of Ethics*, Fire Standards Board, May 2021. Available at: <https://www.firestandards.org/approved-standards/code-of-ethics/>
- 19 According to our 2021 Round 2 Tranche 1 staff survey, 68 percent of respondents have high confidence in services providing wellbeing support and 97 percent understand the policies and procedures in place.
- 20 *Building inclusive workplaces: accessing the evidence*, Chartered Institute of Professional Development, September 2019, p11. Available at: <https://www.cipd.co.uk/knowledge/fundamentals/relations/diversity/building-inclusive-workplaces>