



Chief Officers



Our Ref: DCOL 1/2009  
1 April 2009

Dear Chief Officers

**DEAR CHIEF OFFICER (SCOTLAND) LETTER 1/2009**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT INSPECTIONS OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE BY THE HSE**

I have been asked to circulate the attached letter informing Fire Authorities in Scotland of the HSE's programme for inspection of Fire and Rescue Services in Great Britain. As you will see Grampian Fire and Rescue Service will be inspected as part of the review and should by now have been contacted directly by HSE. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit has been briefed by HSE on the aims of the inspection and will be available for support to the process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Fraser".

**BRIAN FRASER**  
**Head of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit**

Enc

For the attention of:  
Chief Fire Officers  
FRA Chair/Portfolio Holders  
Clerk to the FRA

### **Health and Safety Management Inspections of the Fire and Rescue Service by the HSE**

You will be aware that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) intends to carry out health and safety management inspections in a sample of eight Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) during 2009-10. Those eight FRSs have now been advised of HSE's intention to inspect them.

In planning for these inspections HSE has liaised with the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisers' for England Scotland and Wales, Audit Commission (England, Scotland & Wales), the National FRS health and safety group and the CFOA health and safety group. Additionally HSE has seconded a serving FRS Area Manager to assist with the pre planning phase.

At the conclusion of inspections each FRA will be given an individual inspection report. At the end of the inspection programme a consolidated, anonymised report will be shared with all FRSs and other stakeholders.

The FRS to be inspected are -

Cornwall County Fire Brigade  
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service  
Grampian Fire and Rescue Service  
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service  
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service  
North Wales Fire and Rescue Service  
Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

These services have been selected to be representative of GB FRSs. However, if during the course of the year, circumstances arise whereby HSE decides that it would not be appropriate to continue with an inspection in a particular Service, then the list may need to be altered and another Service included. If this occurs then Services will be advised as soon as this is known.

The inspections will use the framework of HSG65 'Successful Health and Safety Management'. Health and Safety Management will be assessed by specific consideration of amongst others the following issues:

- Training and competence in core firefighter skills including Breathing Apparatus and associated procedures; compartment fire behaviour training
- Competence for incident command
- Provision of risk critical information to inform operational decision making

This programme of inspections does not preclude the investigation of other incidents by HSE nor any interventions to follow up previous issues with any individual Service in GB should the need arise during the course of the year.

Further queries should be addressed to Jenny Morris via e mail at [jenny.morris@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.morris@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

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