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Chief Officers

22 June 2010

Dear Chief Officer

DEAR CHIEF OFFICER (SCOTLAND) LETTER 6/2010

THEMATIC INSPECTION OF CONTEST 'PREPARE'

1. The desirability of a thematic inspection of elements of the CONTEST strategy was identified during a meeting of **RABS CBRN in January 2010**.
2. **Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland** undertook to progress to lead this work in partnership with NHS Quality Improvement Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit, and contextually contained within the '**Prepare**' strand within the four pillars of **CONTEST**, (Pursue – Prevent – Protect - Prepare).
3. A large amount of initial scoping and preparatory work has since been undertaken. In addition, both NHS QIS and SFRAU have supplied nominated staff, and both have now joined the Inspection Team on a full time basis.
4. Station Manager Graham McKenzie is the SFRAU member of the inspection team. He would like to contact you in the near future, if he has not already done so, to have an initial discussion with relevant staff in your service regarding some general background information regarding the inspection. This will be a two way process, which will also allow you to understand what the Inspection Team will be looking for.
5. A letter from HMICS with full details of the thematic inspection will be issued to all Chief Fire Officers' in Scotland in early July.
6. This correspondence will include details of the inspection timeline, the criteria against which all three blue-light services will be assessed, details of any documentation sought in advance and a list of local post holders and stakeholders with whom the Inspection Team would wish to meet.

7. Fire and Rescue Services will not be required to complete any pre-inspection questionnaires and are not expected to generate any new documents in advance of the Inspection Team's visit.
8. I would appreciate your full co-operation with this inspection as I am sure you agree that it is extremely important that emergency services and the wider communities are fully prepared to cope with any major incident, including terrorism.
9. In the meantime, if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 244 2342 or Station Manager McKenzie on 0131 244 1820.

Yours faithfully



BRIAN FRASER
Head of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit