



**Hampshire
& Isle of Wight**
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

HIWFRA Full Authority

Purpose: Noted

Date: **15 JUNE 2021**

Title: **GRENFELL TOWER PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 2021**

Report of Chief Fire Officer

SUMMARY

1. The Grenfell Tower incident of June 2017, and the subsequent and ongoing inquiry, continue to have a significant impact on the fire and rescue sector, and are of high public interest. In response to this incident, and the Phase 1 Inquiry report findings and recommendations, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS) has undertaken a wide range of activity.
2. This includes, but is not limited to, the following, which is expanded upon later in this report:
 - (a) Utilise a Central Government Grenfell Infrastructure grant to progress, support and assure the conclusion of several phase 1 inquiry recommendations:
 - (i) To provide a dedicated Station Manager for 6 months to support our implementation and assurance activities for Grenfell Tower.
 - (ii) Funding secured for Multi-Agency Incident Transfer (MAIT).
 - (iii) Undertaking procurement and training for the use of smoke hoods in support of large scale evacuations.
 - (b) A High Risk Residential Buildings Inspection Programme (HRRBIP) team has been set up and Phase 2 of the programme will involve inspections of all high-rise residential buildings.

- (c) In partnership with the Network Fire Services Partnership (NFSP) we have assisted in the development of new national operational guidance, compliant high-rise tactical guidance and operational prompts.
 - (d) New response plans have been introduced for both cladded and non-cladded high-rise buildings.
 - (e) All operational staff, Flexible Duty System (FDS) officers and Control staff have been trained to identify the dangers of external fire spread, evacuation strategies and when to cease 'stay put' policies.
3. To provide assurance on our activity in this area we continue to monitor progress closely through the regular HIWFRS Tactical Operational Assurance Group which involves senior leaders from all parts of the Service.
 4. HIWFRS current performance towards the 29 fire and rescue service (FRS) sector specific Grenfell Tower recommendations (as inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) for London Fire Brigade (LFB)):

| Complete | Complete Spring/ Summer 2021 | Complete Autumn 2021 | Complete after 2021 |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 13 | 14 | 1 | 1 |

5. This report provides an overview of the activity that the Service has been undertaking in response to the Grenfell Tower incident, the subsequent Inquiry findings, and any wider sector learning associated with Grenfell.
6. A further report will be made to the HIWFRA in December 2021 to present progress.

BACKGROUND

7. The Phase 1 report of the public inquiry into the fire at Grenfell Tower in June 2017 was published in October 2019. This report included a range of detailed findings and a series of recommendations across 12 thematic areas, with some aimed specifically at LFB and others to the wider sector. Phase 2 of the Inquiry is ongoing and examines the causes of these events, including how Grenfell Tower came to be in a condition which allowed the fire to spread in the way identified by the Phase 1 report. The Phase 2 Inquiry is receiving significant media and public interest.

8. Using the Central Government Grenfell infrastructure grant, we have resourced a dedicated Station Manager role for six months to drive forward and assure our activity towards the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report. We are reporting into Central Government on how this grant funding has been used.
9. Furthermore, on 4 August 2020, the Home Secretary commissioned HMICFRS to undertake a review of the governance and progress of LFB's action plan, to implement the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report. HMICFRS have now released their review findings to support further learning within the sector.

GRENFELL HIWFRS PROGRESS OVERVIEW

10. HIWFRS are making sustained progress in implementing and evidencing the recommendations response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report. Recognising that some of the recommendations require changes to law first, examples of our progress within the areas under the direct control of HIWFRS are given below.
11. A new High Risk Residential Buildings Inspection Programme team is in place, supporting the national Building Risk Review (BRR) Programme which was launched by the national Fire Protection Board as part of the Fire and Rescue Services' ongoing national work to understand and help reduce the fire risk in high-rise residential buildings.
12. Following the first step in the national programme, which covered the inspection of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) clad high-rise residential buildings in England, Phase 2 is due for completion by end of summer 2021. Phase 2 of the programme will involve inspections of all high-rise residential buildings (18 metres and above in height) in England.
13. New response plans have been introduced for both cladded and non-cladded high-rise buildings
14. Reviewed approaches to fire survival guidance, implemented an Immediate Building Evacuation (IBE) message and supporting guidance for teams.
15. HIWFRS have engaged in the national operational guidance (NOG) consultation on fire survival guidance. NFSP have evolved an interim mechanism for supporting across the partnership fire survival guidance to respond to high numbers of calls.
16. All operational staff, FDS officers and Control staff have been trained to identify the dangers of external fire spread and evacuation strategies and when to cease 'stay put' policies. Established procedures for evacuation of high rise residential buildings and training to support.

17. Introduced evacuation sectors into the command structure with Evacuation Sector Commanders resourced both on the fireground and in Fire Control.
18. Introduced and trained for a direct and dedicated communications link between control room and incident commander.
19. Introducing operational procedures that are fully compliant to NOG best practice and developed in partnership with NFSP. This has been developed in-line with the learning from the national High-Rise and Built Environment Working Group.
20. Premise Risk Information Procedure, which dictates the process for identification and gathering of relevant risk data, has been updated and refined.
21. Developed training for crews' risk information gathering for high-rise buildings.
22. HIWFRS is equipped to receive and store electronic plans.
23. Updated the maintenance of competence scheme for all Control staff.
24. The management of resources, communication on the incident ground and application of Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) principles within our maintenance of competence scheme for all operational staff, irrespective of role.
25. JESIP inter Control room talk group established.
26. HIWFRS have now undertaken smoke hood research, prepared training to support and now within the procurement phase.
27. Our current performance towards the 29 FRS sector specific Grenfell Towers recommendation (as inspected by HMICFRS for LFB):

| Complete | Complete Spring/ Summer 2021 | Complete Autumn 2021 | Complete after 2021 |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 13 | 14* | 1 | 1 |

- a) Four of the Spring/Summer recommendations are directly affected by the consultation on Edition 3 of the JESIP Joint Doctrine. Prior to the publishing of Edition 3 HIWFRS had already completed these recommendations in line with Edition 2 of the Joint Doctrine.

- b) Complete Autumn 2021 is reliant on Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum (HIWLRF) planning assistance on identifying vulnerable people recommendation.
- c) Complete after 2021 relates to the procurement and application of MAIT which is dictated by Capita, our command and control suppliers, software upgrade time lines.

2020/21 GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING

28. To build capacity and to deliver the Building Risk Review (BRR), the Government provided a grant of £396,000 that is overseen by the Fire Protection Board. The grant conditions cover two separate programmes:

- The Building Risk Review Programme – which will deliver a review of all high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres by the end of December 2021.
- The Protection Uplift Programme – which will support initial improvements in local protection capability.

29. This has resulted in the establishment of a dedicated team of inspecting officers for HIWFRS. This is a one-year funding arrangement intended to make a significant impact in driving improvement in the protection function within fire and rescue services, tackling risk in the built environment and supporting the Building Risk.

30. To ensure Services have sufficient resources to respond to the findings of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report, the Government has provided grant funding, totalling around £150,000, to support Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service in making sustained progress in implementing the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report and improve resilience to major incidents. This funding will be used for the purposes of:

- Provision of smoke hoods.
- Other locally determined activity in response to the Grenfell Tower recommendations and improved resilience to major incidents and infrastructure. For example, upgrades to Control Room systems to allow the ability to connect to Multi-Agency Incident Transfer (MAIT) system which allows emergency services to share electronic incident records.
- Supporting local Grenfell recommendations co-ordination to track and evidence progress being made against the Inquiry recommendations.

31. Within Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, we are utilising some of the funding by resourcing a dedicated Station Manager for six months to drive forward and assure our activity towards the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report.

LEARNING FROM THE SECTOR

32. HIWFRS officers sit on the national and regional High-Rise Working Groups and disseminate learning feedback and policy developments.
33. During 2020, an update of some of the above activity was provided to Her Majesty's Inspector Tom Winsor as part of our consultation response to feed into his annual State of Fire and Rescue: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2020.
34. In August 2020, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) wrote to Chief Fire Officers seeking feedback on how far fire and rescue services had gone in implementing the recommendations of the Phase 1 Grenfell Tower Inquiry report, to help the NFCC to understand how to best support Services.
35. Services were asked to prioritise 11 themes to inform how the NFCC should manage its work. The main message was that competence was the most important area. There is a wide range of activity taking place at a national level in this area, including the creation of new Fire Standards complementing work on enhancing National Operational Guidance (NOG), training specifications and learning materials. HIWFRS are represented on the NFCC Protection Standards Group.
36. NFCC are now able to inform the NOG team about how they can provide further help to Services, particularly regarding Breathing Apparatus procedures, introduction of smoke hoods and to inform the development of the NOG project on Control Room guidance.
37. The NFCC also requested information relating to competence and capacity and these responses are currently being analysed by the NFCC.
38. The HMICFRS LFB response to Grenfell tower enquiry, has now been released to the sector and HIWFRS have undertaken a gap analysis against the report to assure our own progress. The outcomes of which are reported to Executive Group independently of this report, but the gap analysis findings support this report narrative.
39. Learning is also shared and received via the Joint Operational Learning (JOL) and National Operational Learning (NOL) infrastructure that we and other Services utilise. The Service's Operational Assurance Team also continues to provide a range of assurance activity and reporting on Grenfell and other areas to support operational learning and improvement.

SUPPORTING OUR SAFETY PLAN AND PRIORITIES

40. Responding effectively to the requirements and learning from the Grenfell Tower incident, ongoing inquiry and associated national, regional and local activity is an important part of our priorities to keep Our Communities and Our People safe, and to ensure we are learning and improving. Year 1 Safety Plan deliverables, including reviewing our operational learning arrangements to ensure we are benefitting from our own and other Services' experiences, are now completed.

COLLABORATION

41. Sector learning is shared and received via the Joint Operational Learning (JOL) and National Operational Learning (NOL) infrastructure that we and other Services utilise. Learning is also shared through other local, regional and national forums and groups.
42. HIWFRS membership of the South East Protection and Business Fire Safety Group, which feeds into the NFCC Protection Co-ordination Committee, to help deliver on their business plan.
43. Furthermore, HIWFRS also receive and disseminate learning from within the Network Fire Services Partnership (NFSP) with Devon and Somerset, and Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

44. The cost associated with the content of this report is within existing resource plans and the grant funding from the Government. How it is being utilised within HIWFRS is covered in earlier paragraphs.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

45. This report does not lead to any change activity, so no impact assessments are required. Activities such as the use of smoke hoods will lead to impact assessments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

46. There are no legal implications resulting from this report.

OPTIONS

47. To note this Grenfell Tower progress report. This is the recommended option and will ensure that the Fire Authority have a clear documented record of our progress towards the phase 1 recommendations. It will also be used as evidence in any future enquiry or HMICFRS inspections.

RISK ANALYSIS

48. Failure to implement, monitor progress and report on, in response to the Grenfell Tower incident, could result in insufficient action being taken to address any issues, which may affect the outcomes for our communities and our people. The risk to the organisation would be reputational.
49. Grenfell Tower and the impacts of new legislation on HIWFRS is held as a risk on the Organisational Risk Register.

EVALUATION

50. It is crucial that the Service's activities in this important area are evaluated to identify how effective our response to the Grenfell Tower incident, the ongoing inquiry and associated local, regional national activity and learning has been in supporting our communities and our people. This will support our response to HMICFRS's cycle two inspection which will have a focus on Services' response to the Phase 1 Grenfell Tower Inquiry report.
51. Internal assurance reporting is also carried out regularly, with additional national progress reporting – both as part of the national Building Risk Review (BRR) Programme, and the new Government grant funding outlined above.

CONCLUSION

52. HIWFRS have undertaken a range of activity following the Grenfell Tower incident in 2017 – with operational and organisational learning being an important part of the Services' (and the sector's) response to major incidents. Sustained progress has been made and further activity is continuing to be undertaken to conclude the FRS sector recommendations, with regular internal assurance and progress reporting.

RECOMMENDATION

53. That the content of the report be noted by the HIWFRA Full Authority.

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