

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>AGC/23/23</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>30 NOVEMBER 2023</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY &amp; FIRE &amp; RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>Chief Fire Officer</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<i>That the Committee reviews progress in delivery of the action plan.</i>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>On Wednesday 27th July 2022 HMICFRS published the DSFRS 2022 inspection report. The inspection report identified one Cause of Concern and 14 Areas for Improvement (AFIs). Of these AFIs, four have been linked to the Audit and Governance Committee.</p> <p>The paper appended to this report outlines the progress that has been made against the HMICFRS Areas for Improvement action plan since the last update in September 2023. The key highlights are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Area for Improvement, HMI-1.3-202205 (Quality Assurance of Audits and Fire Safety Checks), is currently recorded as 'In Progress – Off Track'. This is due to changes in management within the protection team meaning that an update against the associated actions has been delayed.</li> </ul>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	Considered within the Action Plan where appropriate.
<b>EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS</b>	Considered within the Action Plan where appropriate.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	A. HMI Audit and Governance Committee Update
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	None

**HMICFRS ACTION PLAN – AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022 HMICFRS published the DSFRS 2022 inspection report. The inspection report identified one Cause of Concern and 14 Areas for Improvement (AFIs).
- 1.2. This report provides an update on the Areas For Improvement action plan that has been produced following the inspection, which concluded in October 2021.

**2. AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN COMPLETION STATUS**

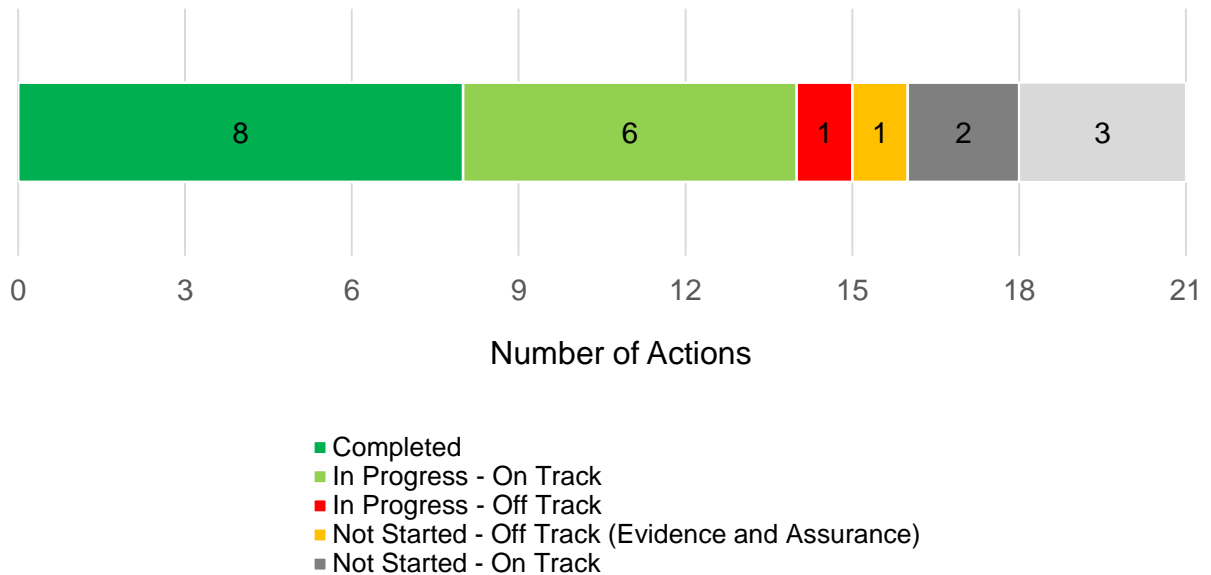
- 2.1. Table 1 lists the Areas For Improvement linked to the Audit and Governance Committee and their individual implementation status.

**Table 1:**

Reference	Description	Target Completion	Status
HMI-1.1-202202	The service should make sure its integrated risk management plan includes clear outcomes that show the public how it is currently mitigating risk.	31/01/2024	In Progress – On Track
HMI-1.3-202205	The service should make sure it has an effective quality assurance process, so staff carry out audits and fire safety checks to an appropriate standard.	<del>30/09/2023</del> 30/11/2023	In Progress – Off Track
HMI-2.2-202207a	Prevention and Protection – The service should be aware of, and invest in, developments in technology and future innovation to help improve and sustain operational efficiency and effectiveness.	30/04/2025	In Progress – On Track
HMI-2.2-202207b	Response – The service should be aware of, and invest in, developments in technology and future innovation to help improve and sustain operational efficiency and effectiveness.	<del>31/10/2023</del> 31/07/2024	In Progress – On Track

2.2. Figure 1 below outlines the completion status of all actions designed to address the Areas For Improvement linked to the Audit and Governance Committee, as outlined above.

**Figure 1: Audit and Governance Committee Action Status - November 2023**



2.3. Table 2 below outlines the completion status of all actions designed to address the Areas For Improvement linked to the Audit and Governance Committee.

Table 2: Summary of progress against the individual actions					
Areas For Improvement (Audit and Governance Committee)					
Not started (on track)	Not started (off track)	In progress (on track)	In progress (off track)	Completed	Closed
5 (↓ from 6)	1 (↑ from 0)	6 (↑ at 5)	1 (→ at 1)	8 (↑ from 7)	0 (→ at 0)

\* Please note that 3 of the actions which have not yet started are the evidence and assurance required once all other actions have been completed.

### 3. **AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT WHICH ARE 'OFF-TRACK'**

3.1. Table 3 below outlines the areas for improvement which are currently marked as 'In Progress – Off Track'.

**Table 3:**

<b>Improvement Area</b>	<b>Status</b>
HMI-1.3-202205 – QA Audits and FSCs	In Progress – Off Track
<b>Factors impacting delivery</b>	
The quality assurance action plan has now been implemented. The next action is to evaluate the action plan and to review the process for the quarter finishing September 2023. Due to changes in management within the protection team an update against this action has been delayed.	

**4. AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT DEADLINE EXTENSIONS**

4.1. Table 4 below outlines the areas for improvement which have has deadline extensions and reasons for this.

**Table 4:**

<b>Improvement Area</b>	<b>Status</b>
HMI-2.2-202207b – Response - Technology and Future Innovation	In Progress – On Track
<b>Reasons for Deadline Extension</b>	
<p>One action within this area for improvement is around ensuring that firefighter skills and training are aligned to local risk. This action is dependent on work being completed at a national level on definition of risk through the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). This action has had a deadline extension to allow for the national work to be completed and for both internal and external collaboration.</p> <p>In addition to this, two actions have been established around an electronic solution to immediate building evacuation (IBE) linked to the outcomes of Grenfell. These actions have been linked to this area for improvement as an example of use of technology to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness.</p>	

**GAVIN ELLIS**  
**Chief Fire Officer**