

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	AGC/24/3
MEETING	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	22 JANUARY 2024
SUBJECT OF REPORT	HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY & FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Fire Officer
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That the Committee reviews progress in delivery of the action plan.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<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 November 2023. The key highlights are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the Areas for Improvement action plan is on track.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Considered within the Action Plan where appropriate.
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	Considered within the Action Plan where appropriate.
APPENDICES	A. HMI Audit and Governance Committee Update
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. 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).
- 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

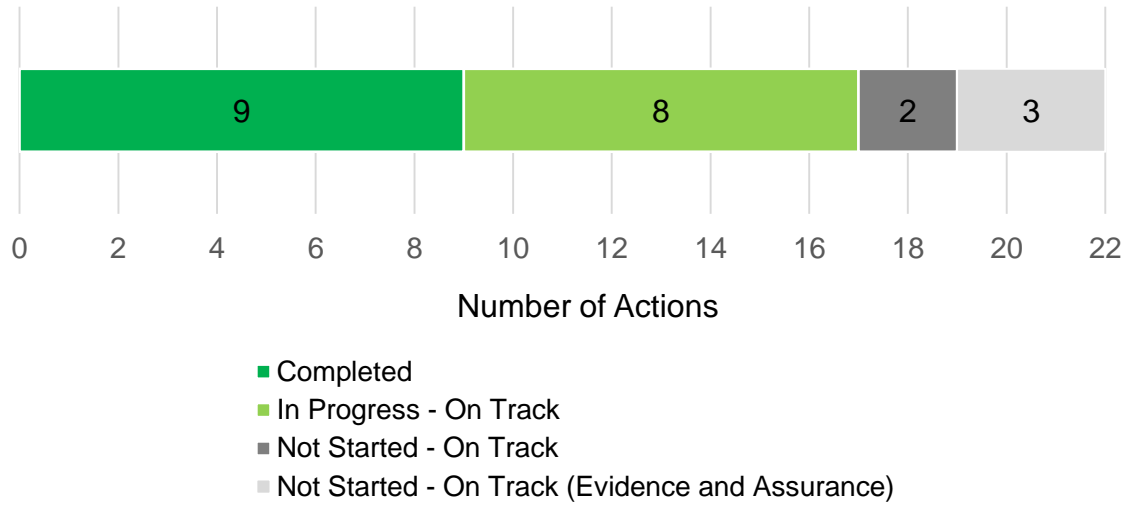
2.1 Table 1 lists the Areas For Improvement linked to the Audit and Governance Committee and their individual implementation status.

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.	30/09/2023 30/11/2023 31/08/2024	In Progress – On 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.	31/10/2023 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 - January 2024



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 (→ at 5)	0 (↓ from 1)	8 (↑ at 6)	0 (↓ from 1)	9 (↑ from 8)	0 (→ at 0)

* Please note that three 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 DEADLINE EXTENSIONS**

3.1. Table 3 below outlines the areas for improvement, number of deadline extensions, total extension length and current target completion date.

Table 3:

Title	Number of Extensions	Total Extension Length (months)	Target Completion Date
IRMP Mitigating Risk	0	0	31/01/2024
QA Audits and FSCs	1	11	31/08/2024

Prevention and Protection – Technology and Future Innovation	0	0	30/04/2025
Response – Technology and Future Innovation	1	9	31/07/2024

3.2. Table 4 below outlines the reasons for any deadline extensions which have occurred since the last update to the committee.

Table 4:

Improvement Area	Status
HMI-1.3-202205 – QA Audits and FSCs	In Progress – On Track
Reasons for Deadline Extension	
<p>The quality assurance process has been in place since July 2023. From January 2024 the quality assurance manager will be visiting fire safety managers to ensure the process is being completed to the appropriate standard. The action relating to this piece of work has had a deadline extension to allow time for these visits to be undertaken.</p>	