

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>AGC/24/10</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>AUDIT &amp; GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>26 MARCH 2024</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 January 2024. The key highlights are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Area for Improvement, HMI-2.2-202207b (Response – Technology and Innovation), is currently recorded as 'In Progress – Off Track'. This area for improvement is dependent upon data from the new training recording system which is currently under development. The data will inform a risk-based approach to training utilising technology to realise efficiencies. The target completion date will be reviewed following implementation of the new system.</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>	None.
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	None

**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**

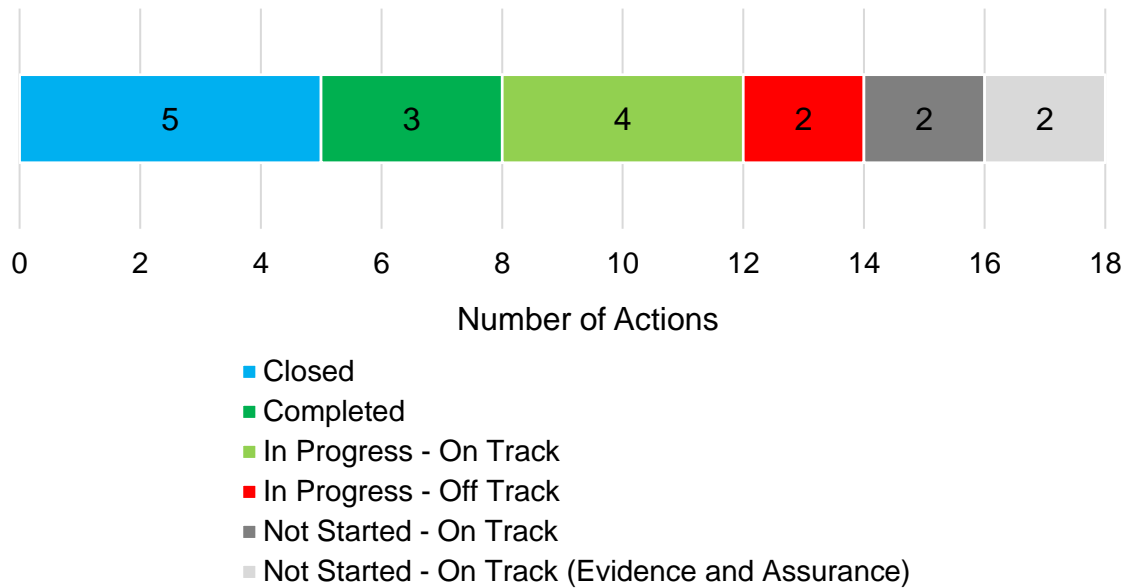
- 2.1 As a result of discussions at the previous Audit and Governance Committee meeting in January 2024, HMI-1.3-202205 (Quality Assurance of Audits and Fire Safety Checks) will be reported to the Community Safety Committee.
- 2.2 Table 1 lists the Areas For Improvement linked to the Audit and Governance 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	Closed
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 – Off Track

- 2.3 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 - March 2024**



2.4 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
4	0	4	2	3	5

\* Please note that two 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:**

Improvement Area	Status
HMI-2.2-202207b – Response – Technology and Innovation	In Progress – Off Track
<b>Factors impacting delivery</b>	

This area for improvement is dependent upon data from the new training recording system which is currently under development. The data will inform a risk-based approach to training utilising technology to realise efficiencies. The target completion date will be reviewed following implementation of the new system.

#### 4. **AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT DEADLINE EXTENSIONS**

4.1. 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
Prevention and Protection – Technology and Future Innovation	0	0	30/04/2025
Response – Technology and Future Innovation	1	9	31/07/2024

4.2. There have been no additional deadline extensions since the last report to the committee in January 2024.

**GAVN ELLIS**  
**Chief Fire Officer**