

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	AGC/24/16
MEETING	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	16 JULY 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, three 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 March 2024. The key highlights are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Area for Improvement, HMI-2.2-202207b (Response – Technology and Innovation), has now been marked as completed and will be reviewed by the Governance Board on 10/07/2024.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Considered within the Action Plan where appropriate.
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	Considered within the Action Plan where appropriate.
APPENDICES	None
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

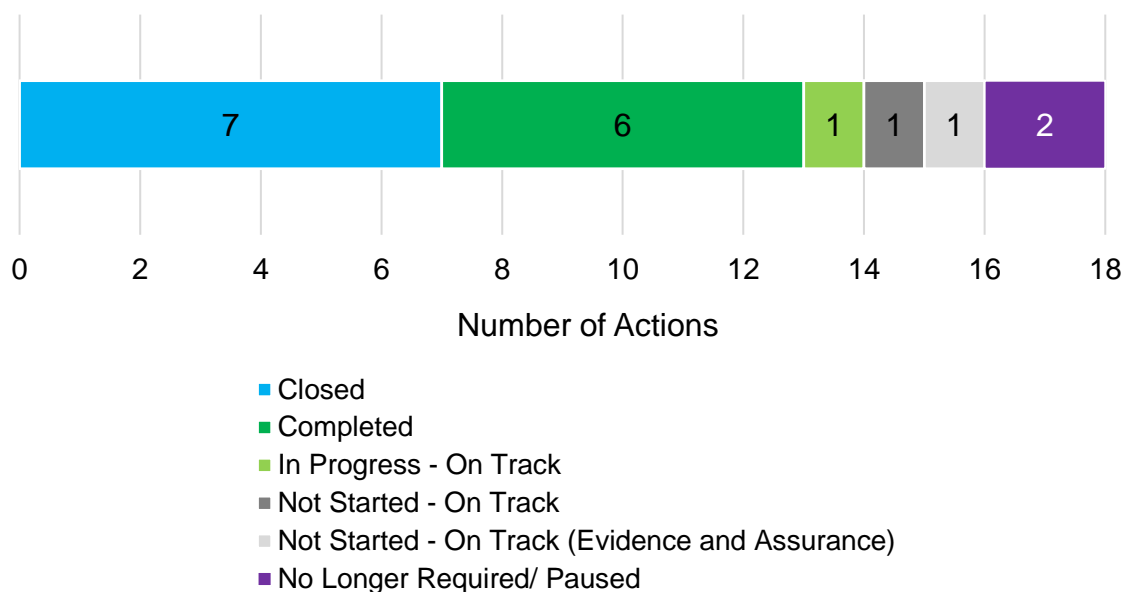
- 2.1 As a result of discussions at the previous Audit and Governance Committee meeting in January 2024, HMI-1.3-202205 (Quality Assurance of Audits and Fire Safety Checks) will be reported to the Community Safety Committee.
- 2.2 Table 1 lists the Areas For Improvement linked to the Audit and Governance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

- 2.3 Figure 1 overleaf 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 - July 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	No Longer Required
2 (↓ from 4)	0 (→ at 0)	1 (↓ from 4)	0 (↓ from 2)	6 (↑ from 3)	7 (↑ from 5)	2 (↑ from 0)

* Please note that one of the actions which has not yet started is the evidence and assurance required once all other actions have been completed.

3. **ACTIONS MARKED AS 'NO LONGER REQUIRED'**

- 3.1. Two actions under Area for Improvement HMI-2.2-202207b (Response – Technology and Innovation) have been marked as ‘no longer required’ since the last update to the committee.
- 3.2. This was as a result of an action review in April 2024 where it was established that the two actions did not directly support achievement of the required outcome from HMICFRS.
- 3.3. Further work on the two actions will continue to progress but will be monitored as part of department business as usual.

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	31/10/2023 31/07/2024

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

GAVIN ELLIS
Chief Fire Officer