



ABERDEEN CITY LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER AREA

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT INSPECTIONS

Report Ref

1 RECOMMENDATION

The Aberdeen Public Protection Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider and note the information provided in this report in relation to prevention and protection.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Fire Safety Enforcement (FSE) refers to our programme of legislative fire safety audits within relevant premises as defined by Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act.
- 2.2 Fire safety legislation aims to ensure the safety of employees, residents, visitors or customers and sets out the responsibilities in respect of fire safety.

Anyone who has control, to any extent, of any premises will have some responsibilities for ensuring that those occupying the premises are safe from harm caused by fire.

The legislation places a duty on those responsible for fire safety within relevant premises to carry out a fire risk assessment. They are defined in the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as Duty Holders.

- 2.3 The SFRS has developed a fire safety framework that prioritises FSE audits in premises where the greatest risk of harm from fire is present e.g. care homes, hospitals, HMO's etc
- 2.4 Through our risk based fire safety audit programme our Fire Safety Enforcement Team work in partnership with duty holders to assist them in meeting their fire safety legislative requirements and ensure that their buildings are safe for the building users.

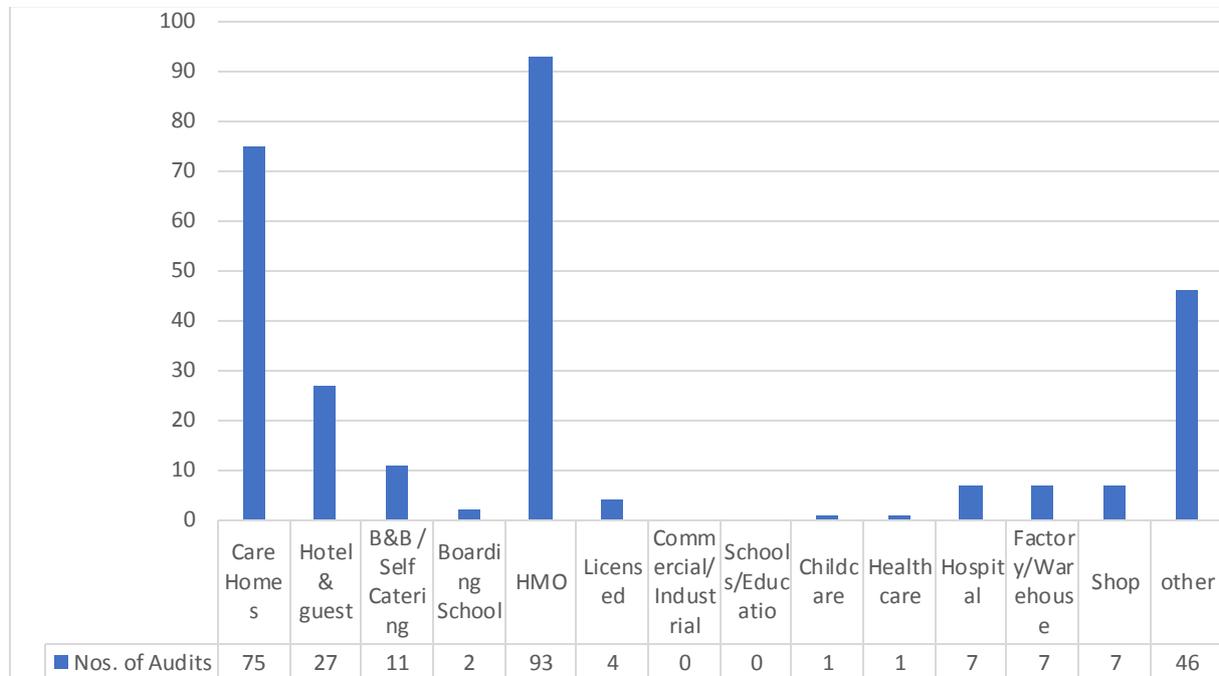
3 FIRE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT (FSE) VISITATIONS

- 3.1 With the reduction in restriction levels for Covid-19 during this reporting period, SFRS have taken the decision to tentatively resume their fire safety audit activities.

By adhering to Scottish Government guidance when working in the community we have been able to re-assure the duty holder, resume our fire safety audits with

physical visits to business premises and maintain, as far as possible, the safety of our employees with the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

3.2 The table below shows our audit activity to date for the reporting period



3.3 Additionally, our Fire Safety Enforcement Team have been providing support to both Orkney and Shetland Isles. This approach by SFRS is intended to ensure that we carry out our framework audits in all areas across Scotland.

3.4 Looking forward, we plan to build on our tentative approach by increasing our audit activity in business premises.

3.5 Our goal and positive challenge going forward will be to return to a pre covid-19 work environment by completing our annual framework audits and assist duty holders in maintaining fire safety legislation in the built environment.

4 INSPECTIONS

4.1 Operational Intelligence visits (283), The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is committed to firefighter safety. The provision of Operational Intelligence (OI) is a key component of this by providing readily accessible information regarding operational risk at the point of need. Despite the reduction in COVID levels, the first half of the reporting period saw resistance in the business community to allowing crews to physically carry out Operational Intelligence visits. This has eased in the second half of the period, and we have worked extremely hard to capture or review 283 premises on the O.I. system.

4.2 Operational Assurance visits (168) to High Rise Domestic Buildings has continued, these visits provide benefits similar to OI but also gives the SFRS the opportunity to

check safety features within the High Rise such as self-closing fire doors. 168 inspections being carried out for the reporting period to date. Partners at Aberdeen City Council have been swift in rectifying issues reported as a result.

- 4.3 Care Home Visits (32) There has been an understandable unwillingness to carry out familiarisation visits to care homes during the reporting period, given the extra risks posed by COVID-19 to occupants. 32 familiarisation visits have been carried out, and the majority of these have been in the last few weeks. OI inspections have occurred where needed however.
- 4.4 Hydrant Inspection (429) Section 17(1) of the 2005 Fire (Scotland) Act states that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has a duty to 'take all reasonable measures for securing an adequate supply of water'. Hydrants are inspected in a blended approach by operational and hydrant operators across Scotland. Within Aberdeen City, this is solely carried out by operational crews. 429 Hydrant Inspections have been carried out over the period, with a range of faults being reported where needed.