

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection
DATE	23 February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report - Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals: Approved Response Model for Automatic Fire Alarms
REPORT NUMBER	SFR/22/049
DIRECTOR	Chay Ewing, Local Senior Officer, SFRS
CHIEF OFFICER	Andy Dick, Group Commander, SFRS
REPORT AUTHOR	Craig Wallace, Group Commander, SFRS
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5.6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report - **Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals: Approved Response Model for Automatic Fire Alarms**.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Committee consider and note the information provided in this report. **Appendix A Thematic Report – Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals: Approved Response Model for Automatic Fire Alarms**.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following a 12-week public consultation, at its meeting on 16 December 2021, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Board approved recommendations for implementing a new model for responding to automatic fire alarms in Scotland
- 3.2 This report invites you to review how the SFRS will respond to automatic fire alarms in Aberdeen City from 01 April 2023.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There may be a financial implication for Aberdeen City Council should further staff training be required, or risk assessments and/or management procedures need to be refreshed.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (Chapter 3, Part 1) outlines the legal duties for Fire Safety in relation to relevant premises.
- 5.2 The 'Dutyholder' has a legal responsibility to manage fire protection measures in a building, and failure to do so competently can lead to prosecution.
- 5.3 British Standard 5839-6 Fire detection and Fire Alarm Systems for Buildings notes that '*Filtering might sometimes be applied solely to the summoning of the fire and rescue service. In this case, the building, or part of it, would be evacuated when the fire detection and fire alarm system operates, but the automatic summoning of the fire and rescue service would be delayed pending an investigation to confirm whether the alarm signal is false or the result of a real fire.*'

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 6.1 Aberdeen City Council should consider the implementation of the new response model on their current management procedures for investigating automatic fire alarm activations across their assets. Risk Assessments should be robust and not be reliant on a SFRS response when no fire has been confirmed.

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Economy	<p>Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper contributes to fire safety which will assist with achieving a safer place to live, work and visit.</p> <p>The paper seeks contribution to the SFRS Strategic Plan; 'We will respond appropriately to Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals and work with our partners to reduce and manage their impact on businesses, communities and our Service'.</p>
People	<p>Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper contributes to fire safety which will assist with achieving a safer place to live, work and visit.</p>
Place	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following LOIP Stretch Outcomes;</p> <p>SO13: Address climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.</p>

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	
Organisational Design	
Governance	
Workforce	
Process Design	
Technology	
Partnerships and Alliances	

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	N/A
Privacy Impact Assessment	N/A
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not required.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix A – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report - Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals: Approved Response Model for Automatic Fire Alarms

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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