



Home Office

**Kit Malthouse MP**  
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Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP  
Chair, Home Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
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Dear Chair,

### **INSPECTION OF FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND**

I am writing to inform you that the Home Secretary, pursuant to section 28A of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, has approved Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) fire inspection programme and framework 2020/21. As a result, HMICFRS' inspectors are now able to act in accordance with it and use their inspection powers. Unlike police inspection, there is no statutory requirement for HMICFRS to publish this document before Parliament; however, in the interests of transparency I wanted to bring this to your attention. I attach a copy of this document which will be published on HMICFRS' website and also placed in the Libraries of both Houses, along with a copy of this letter.

Inspections will begin imminently and reports on individual services will be published on an ongoing basis. Over the course of their inspection programme HMICFRS will assess how effective and efficient each of the 45 fire and rescue authorities – or more pertinently the fire and rescue service the authority oversees – in England are at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks. The Chief Fire and Rescue Inspector will report to Parliament annually, as he did on 15 January, providing an assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of fire and rescue authorities in England who had been inspected during that year. The Home Secretary and I have asked for regular updates as and when key findings emerge.

You are welcome to share this letter with your Committee. I am copying this letter to the Chief Fire and Rescue Inspector for England.

**Kit Malthouse MP**  
**Minister of State for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service**