

Report to	<b>Executive Panel</b>
Date	<b>22/10/2018</b>
Lead Officer	<b>Richard Fairhead, Assistant Chief Fire Officer</b>
Contact Officer	<b>Richard Fairhead (01745 535257)</b>
Subject	<b>Health and Safety Executive Inspection</b>



## PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report is to provide members with information relating to the forthcoming inspection of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS) by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 In July 2018 the Service was notified of the HSE's intention to carry out an inspection of NWFRS as part of its programme of inspections of Fire and Rescue Services across the UK. The inspection of NWFRS will take place on 24 and 25 October 2018. Preparations, including the collection of evidence required by the HSE, are being overseen by an officer-led steering group.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3 That members note the information provided in this report.

## BACKGROUND

- 4 In November 2009 NWFRS was one of eight Fire and Rescue Services inspected by the HSE. NWFRS received both an individual report containing specific recommendations and a consolidated report with more general recommendations arising from all of the inspections undertaken.
- 5 All previous recommendations were addressed in 2010 and have been reviewed as part of the preparation for this year's inspection.
- 6 In July 2018 NWFRS received notification that NWFRS was one of six Fire and Rescue Services that would be visited by the HSE as part of its programme of inspections this year. The other five are Greater Manchester County Fire and Rescue Service, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

- 7 It is understood that the inspection will follow the framework of the HSE's 'Successful Health and Safety Management' guide (HSG65), with health and safety management being assessed by specific consideration of the following areas:
- how competency in breathing apparatus and compartment fire behaviour training is maintained;
  - how competency is maintained for incident command;
  - how risk critical information to inform operational decision making is obtained and shared; and
  - how learnings from incidents from outside the Service are shared and actioned.
- 8 NWFRS' inspection is programmed for 24 and 25 October 2018.

## INFORMATION

- 9 A steering group, chaired by Assistant Chief Fire Officer Fairhead, has been established to prepare for the inspection. Working groups assigned to each of the inspection subject areas meet on a fortnightly basis and report to this steering group. In addition to collecting the evidence required for the inspection itself, NWFRS has:
- met with the HSE inspector to better understand the format of the inspection;
  - prepared an evidence pack of pre-inspection material and forwarded this to the HSE lead inspector;
  - liaised with the other five FRSs subject to this year's inspection programme; and
  - communicated information on the HSE visit to all staff.
- 10 Members will be informed of the findings of the inspection. Any recommendations or suggested improvements arising from the inspection will be considered and, where necessary, addressed through an action plan.

## IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Not applicable
Budget	No budgetary implications
Legal	No direct legal issues, however the HSE will be inspecting areas which are a legislative requirement for NWFRS under the Fire and Rescue Service's Act 2004
Staffing	No additional staffing implications - Staff will support the visit as part of their normal duties
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	Not applicable
Risks	A poor inspection report from the HSE would pose a potential risk to the Authority's reputation.