



Home Office

Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group

Date: 25 July 2017

Mark Leech FRSA

Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group
Policing and Fire Directorate
2nd Floor NW Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: 44423

Please reply to: cpfig@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr Leech

Thank you for your e-mail of 26th June 2017, in which you ask for the following information:

1. Copies of all CPFIG fire safety inspection reports on prison and young offender establishments carried out in the last 12 months.
2. Details of the CPFIG inspection programme on prison establishments, for example how often are prison establishments inspected, who carries out those inspections, against what criteria are prison establishments inspected and to have copies of the same.
3. What procedures are in place for ensuring deficiencies in prison fire safety identified during a CPFIG inspection are corrected?

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am able to disclose the information set out in the enclosed Annex.

In keeping with the Freedom of Information Act, we assume that all information can be released to the public unless it is exempt. In line with normal practice we are therefore releasing the information which you requested via the Home Office website.

I hope that this information meets your requirements. I would like to assure you that we have provided you with all relevant information that the Home Office holds.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference 44423. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Rights Team
Home Office
Third Floor, Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF
e-mail: foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you

Direct Dial: 0300 1233911
Mobile:
E-Mail: cpfig@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Yates
Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group
Office of the Senior Fire & Rescue Adviser

Annex

Freedom of Information request from Mark Leech (reference FOI Case Ref: 44423 - (Mark Leech) - 2017-06-26 - (CPFIG)

1.

FOI Enquiry	Response
<p>1. Copies of all CPFIG fire safety inspection reports on prison and young offender establishments carried out in the last 12 months.</p>	<p>Attached</p>
<p>2. Details of the CPFIG inspection programme on prison establishments, for example how often are prison establishments inspected, who carries out those inspections, against what criteria are prison establishments inspected and to have copies of the same.</p>	<p>CPFIG’s inspections are aimed at identifying whether any person has failed to comply with the law. As we deliberately provide prisons with only limited warning of inspections, the details of our ongoing inspection programme are exempt from release under Section 31.</p> <p>CPFIG’s risk-based inspection programme plans to inspect premises with sleeping accommodation (such as prisons) on a 3-5 year rolling programme, but the priority given to inspecting specific establishments must also take into account a range of risk indicators. These include the fire risk profile of prisons; the number and seriousness of fire incidents and injuries at that and in other prisons; as well as risk intelligence from other sources (such as HM Inspector of Prisons and HSE). This means that CPFIG inspectors inspect where the greatest risk may be present but also ensures that all prisons are included in the rolling programme of inspections.</p> <p>CPFIG undertakes post-fire investigations following significant fires and also uses interim “short audits” to update its risk profile for establishments which have not recently had an inspection. Each of these can change the priority given to carrying out an inspection of the establishment.</p> <p>Inspections consist of a two-day process involving either 3 or 4 CPFIG inspectors, depending on the complexity and size of the establishment.</p> <p>Judgments are reached against the inspection standard “FIRE SAFETY EXPECTATIONS IN PRISONS - Fire Safety Requirements for Residential Prison Accommodation”. A copy of this is attached.</p>
<p>3. What procedures are in place for ensuring deficiencies in prison fire safety identified during a CPFIG inspection are corrected?</p>	<p>Prisons must comply with the Fire Safety Order but have immunity against prosecution if they fail to do so. CPFIG’s approach to enforcement is to use ‘Crown Notices’ in place of statutory notices. These Notices are not enforceable but provide definitive statements of the fire safety deficiencies at any establishment and invariably result in the prison (with guidance from a multi-disciplinary stakeholder group led by the HMPPS National Fire Safety Team) developing and submitting an action plan for addressing the deficiencies.</p>

	<p>CPFIG carries out follow-up action after every inspection, to confirm that the action plan is being progressed. The follow-up action usually takes the form of a further limited inspection, but we may simply request a written assurance on progress from the Governor where that is appropriate. The findings of the follow-up action are then used to identify whether further enforcement action is required, based on the Enforcement Management Model (see https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiroK2Ko4jVAhVD_WMKHe-JBS4QFggmMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cfoa.org.uk%2Fdownload%2F62582&usq=AFQjCNH03tezQsyR7pyuABfHkSMazDVYPg). This can lead to enforcement being stepped up where inadequate progress has been made.</p>
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