

## Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017

[REDACTED]  
Governing Governor  
HMP Lewes  
Brighton Road  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 1EA.



Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group  
Fire and Resilience Directorate  
Crime, Policing and Fire Group  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor NW Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: 1413/019/01

Please reply to:  
[REDACTED]

Dear Governor,

### **The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Order)**

**Premises: HMP Lewes, Brighton Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1EA.**

Following the fire safety inspection of the above premises on **11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017**, I am writing to confirm my opinion that the identified individuals or groups of people would be at risk in case of fire. You will need to take action to ensure their safety.

In the event that a long-term solution cannot be implemented immediately, you will need to introduce interim measures to reduce the level of risk whilst longer-term measures are being prepared.

Fire safety measures are largely interactive, and fire risks can be controlled in many ways. Therefore, whilst the schedule refers to solutions you could adopt, I am not directing you to choose any one of them. It will be acceptable for you to implement any measures which achieve an appropriate standard of safety from fire.

Successful approaches to assessing and managing risk can be provided by accepted guidance, BS9999: 2008 or fire engineering calculations. Each of these requires the involvement of a person with comprehensive training or experience.

I have included additional information to assist you with planning what action to take:

1. The schedule identifies in each case the 'immediate' (i.e. what has its roots at the establishment) and the likely 'underlying' (i.e. corporate) causes of the failures identified during the inspection.
2. I attach the RAG Risk Rating form for the inspection. The form provides a clear risk-based decision framework and a risk score for individual RAG outcomes.
3. Final risk ratings for the fire safety measures and for key areas of fire safety management are also set out in bar charts at the end of the RAG rating form.

The RAG Risk Rating Form and the risk ratings will be revised during any follow-up inspection. This will be shown as a second bar on the chart, demonstrating the improvement made.

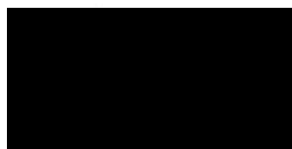
I informed you at our meeting that my initial enforcement decision was to allow you the opportunity to comply in a timely manner. The next steps are, therefore, for you to develop your planned action plan, and to confirm the plan and date of completion to me within 28 days of receiving this letter.

Please note that, given the level of risk involved, I can only maintain an informal enforcement approach where you are able to evidence your commitment and ongoing progress towards compliance.

If you do not undertake the necessary improvements, then you may be served with a Crown enforcement notice.

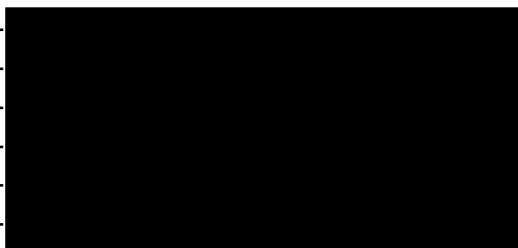
There is no formal right to appeal against this letter but if you would like clarification of its contents or to comment on your experience of the visit, please contact either me or the CPFIG Team Leader on [cpfig@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cpfig@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) .

Yours faithfully



Crown Premises Fire Inspector  
**Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group**  
**Office of the Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser**

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## Schedule

Premises: HMP Lewes, Brighton Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1EA.

File Number: 1413/019/01

Sheet: 1 of 4.

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the CFRA letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

1. MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE.			
Relevant article of the Order	Specific Failure to Comply with the Order	Steps considered necessary to remedy the failure to comply, including an illustrative example of a compliant measure	Action Plan Required
Articles 4(1)(a) & 8	a. Prisoners are not presented with an appropriate range of purposeful information directed at deterring fire-setting and tampering with fire detectors.	a. Prisoners should be presented with an appropriate range of purposeful information directed at deterring fire setting and tampering with fire detectors.	Within 28 days
11	<b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b> <i>No suitable measure was in place</i>	<b>Safety Management Remedy</b> <i>The arrangements for carrying out fire risk assessments must ensure that there is a systematic process in place for identifying all relevant factors.</i>	
11	<b>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure:</b> <i>The arrangements for carrying out fire risk assessments do not ensure that there is a systematic process in place for identifying all relevant factors.</i>		
	b. Prisoners with a history of fire-setting and those at known risk of self-harm through fire are not located in cells where they are most appropriately safeguarded from fire:	b. Prisoners at known risk from fire should be located wherever possible in cells fitted with automatic fire detection, near to water misting equipment, and on the top landing of an atrium wing, in that order of preference.	
		Locating prisoners at known risk from fire in corridor approach without automatic fire detection and mechanical smoke control must be avoided.	
11	<b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b> <i>No suitable measure was in place</i>	<b>Safety Management Remedy</b> <i>Arrangements must be put in place to ensure that the action points arising from the fire risk assessment are acted upon.</i>	
11	<b>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure:</b> <i>There are inadequate arrangements to ensure that the action points arising from the fire risk assessment are acted upon.</i>		

## 2. PROTECTION OF STAFF AND PRISONERS.

### WARNING OF FIRE – MEASURES FOR FIRE-FIGHTING – RISK OF FIRE SPREAD – SECURING THE MEANS OF ESCAPE

<b>Relevant article of the Order</b>	<b>Specific Failure to Comply with the Order</b>	<b>Steps considered necessary to remedy the failure to comply, including an illustrative example of a compliant measure</b>	<b>Action Plan Required</b>
Articles 4(1)(a) & 8  5   11   11	<p>a. There was insufficient fire-fighting and ancillary equipment to effectively carry out the cell fire response plan.</p> <p><i>Corrective works are under way, but not completed</i></p> <p>b. Measures to reduce the spread of fire and smoke were inadequate.</p> <p><b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b> <i>The identified action point was not implemented</i></p> <p><b>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure:</b> <i>There are inadequate arrangements for the fire risk assessment findings to be taken into account when decisions are taken, which may affect fire safety matters.</i></p>	<p>a. Sufficient water misting equipment, hose-reels &amp; ancillary equipment should be provided so that, allowing for the predicted time for fire detection, water-mist inundation is commenced within six minutes from ignition.</p> <p>b. i) The fire loading in the corridor approach areas and enclosed landings should be limited to the minimum possible level compatible with the use of the building.</p> <p>ii) The quantity of combustible materials in shared spaces must be reduced to an acceptable level.</p> <p><b>Safety Management Remedy:</b> <i>Arrangements must be put in place for the fire risk assessment findings to be taken into account when decisions are taken over matters which affect fire safety.</i></p>	Within 28 days
<b>Relevant article of the Order</b>	<b>Insufficient information was available to evidence compliance in respect of the following matters:</b>	<b>Information required:</b>	<b>Date Required</b>
Articles 4(1)(a) & 8	<p>c. There was insufficient evidence available to confirm that the emergency lighting provides sufficient illumination to safeguard prisoners and prison staff.</p> <p>d. There was insufficient evidence available to demonstrate how the smoke control systems on [REDACTED] Wings have been designed and support the fire strategy for the building.</p>	<p>c. Evidence should be provided which demonstrates that the emergency lighting does provide sufficient illumination to safeguard prisoners and prison staff.</p> <p>d. Evidence should be provided which demonstrates how the smoke control systems on [REDACTED] Wings have been designed and support the fire strategy for the building.</p>	Within 28 days

## 3. STAFF INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACTIONS IN THE EVENT OF FIRE.

### CELL FIRE RESPONSE.

<b>Relevant article of the Order</b>	<b>Specific Failure to Comply with the Order</b>	<b>Steps considered necessary to remedy the failure to comply, including an illustrative example of a compliant measure</b>	<b>Action Plan Required</b>
Articles 4(1)(b),	a. The cell fire response plan is not time based	a. The cell fire response plan must be time-based. Allowing for the predicted time for fire detection, the fire-fighting plan must	Within 28 days

7(6), 8 & 14		ensure that water-mist inundation has been commenced by six minutes from ignition.	
11	<p><b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b> The planned fire safety measure had not been implemented</p> <p><b>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure:</b> The fire safety policy was not followed.</p> <p>b. There is no plan to use water mist equipment as soon as possible in every case, and always within 5 minutes.</p>	<p><b>Safety Management Remedy:</b> The fire safety policy must be followed.</p> <p>b. The fire-fighting plan should be time-based, starting from when the fire is started, and taking into account the predicted time for fire detection. By six minutes from ignition – including the time for detection - the fire-fighting plan must ensure that water-mist inundation has been commenced.</p> <p>Initial inundation should be carried out where necessary in order to reduce the level of hazard created by the fire, but instructions should be given for this to be supplemented as soon as possible with the application of water mist equipment, and in every case if the prisoner might not be released from the cell within six minutes of the fire starting, allowing for the predicted time for fire detection.</p>	
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11	<p><b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b> The planned fire safety measure had not been implemented</p> <p><b>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure:</b> The fire safety policy was not followed.</p>	<p><b>Safety Management Remedy:</b> The fire safety policy must be followed.</p>	
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#### 4. EFFECTIVENESS OF STAFF ACTIONS TO TAKE IN THE EVENT OF FIRE.

##### FIRE TRAINING – EVACUATION

Relevant article of the Order	Specific Failure to Comply with the Order	Steps considered necessary to remedy the failure to comply, including an illustrative example of a compliant measure	Action Plan Required
Articles 4(1)(c), 7(6), 8 & 14	<p>a. The training package delivered to staff does not provide sufficient theoretical/practical instruction on the cell fire response procedures and the fire detection systems.</p> <p><b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b> The identified action point was not implemented</p> <p><b>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure:</b> The fire safety policy was not followed.</p>	<p>a. The training package should ensure that new staff members are sufficiently trained to be able – under suitable supervision –to take an effective part in the cell fire response plan, including using RPE and all inundation equipment.</p> <p>i) All prison staff members working in residential wings should receive sufficient training on the fire detection system to be able to carry out meaningful checks on whether it has been tampered with and whether an attempt has been made to defeat it.</p> <p><b>Safety Management Remedy:</b> The fire safety policy must be followed.</p>	Within 28 days
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General Maintenance.			
Relevant article of the Order	Specific Failure to Comply with the Order	Steps considered necessary to remedy the failure to comply, including an illustrative example of a compliant measure	Action Plan Required
Articles 4(1)(d), 7(6), 8 & 17	<p>a. There was insufficient evidence available to demonstrate that the fire safety measures being tested and maintained were in good condition and effective working order</p> <p><b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b> <i>Contractor had not carried out the remedial works</i></p> <p><b>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure:</b> <i>There were inadequate arrangements for the maintenance of general fire precautions.</i></p>	<p>a. Evidence should be provided which demonstrates that the fire safety measures being tested and maintained were in good condition and effective working order</p> <p><b>Safety Management Remedy:</b> <i>The arrangements for maintenance must ensure that the general fire precautions are subject to a suitable system of maintenance and are maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair.</i></p>	Within 28 days

Where appropriate, a plan may form part of this Schedule to illustrate the steps which, in the opinion of the Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group, need to be taken in order to meet the requirements of the Order.

**Note:** Notwithstanding any consultation with other enforcing authorities undertaken by the Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group, before you make any alterations to the workplace which constitutes building works you must apply to your local building control body (the local authority or an approved inspector) for any necessary approvals and to any other body which has a statutory interest in the workplace if their permission is required for those alterations to be made.