

Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group

Date: 22nd June 2017

<REDACTED>
Director
HMP Northumberland
Northumberland
NE65 9XG



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

Our Ref: 4616/800/01
Your Ref:

Please reply to:
<REDACTED>@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

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

Premises: HMP Northumberland, Northumberland, NE65 9XG

Following the fire safety inspection of the above premises on the **14th & 15th June 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.

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 .

Yours faithfully

<REDACTED>
Crown Premises Fire Inspector
Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group
Office of the Senior Fire & Rescue Adviser

CC <REDACTED>
CC <REDACTED>

Schedule

Premises: HMP Northumberland, Northumberland, NE65 9XG

File Number: 4616/800/01

Sheet: 1 of 5

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the CFRA letter dated 21st June 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 11 11	<p>a. Prisoners were not presented with a sufficient range of purposeful information directed at preventing prisoners from fire-setting.</p> <p>Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>No suitable measure was in place.</i></p> <p>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure: <i>Inadequate monitoring is undertaken to establish whether the fire safety arrangements are successful.</i></p>	<p>a. Prisoners should be presented with a sufficient range of purposeful information directed at preventing prisoners from fire-setting.</p> <p>Safety Management Remedy: <i>Suitable arrangements must be introduced for monitoring the success of the fire safety arrangements.</i></p>	On further Request

2. PROTECTION OF STAFF AND PRISONERS.			
WARNING OF FIRE – MEASURES FOR FIRE-FIGHTING – LIGHTING LEVELS FOR SAFE WORKING - RISK OF FIRE SPREAD – SMOKE CONTROL			
Relev 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)(e), 7(6), 8 & 13 9	<p><u>WARNING OF FIRE</u></p> <p>a.i) Prisoners were not presented with effective information directed at preventing tampering with fire detectors.</p> <p>Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>The fire risk assessor did not identify the opportunity to reduce risk</i></p> <p>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure: <i>The arrangements for carrying out fire risk</i></p>	<p>a.i) Prisoners should be presented with effective information directed at preventing tampering with fire detectors.</p> <p>Safety Management Remedy: <i>The arrangements for carrying out fire risk assessments must ensure that there is a</i></p>	On further Request

<p>9</p> <p>Articles 4(1),(a), (b)(c), 7(6), 8 & 14</p> <p>11</p> <p>11</p>	<p><i>assessments do not ensure that there is a systematic process in place for identifying all relevant factors.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RISK OF FIRE SPREAD</u></p> <p>d. There were inadequate measures to control the risk of fire and smoke spreading within common areas.</p> <p>Immediate Cause of Failure:</p> <p><i>No suitable measure was in place</i></p> <p>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure:</p> <p><i>Arrangements for the day-to-day management of fire safety were inadequate.</i></p>	<p><i>systematic process in place for identifying all relevant factors.</i></p> <p>d. The fire resistance protecting the escape routes must control the spread of smoke where this could cause potential harm to persons using escape routes.</p> <p>Safety Management Remedy:</p> <p><i>Adequate arrangements are required for the day-to-day management of fire safety.</i></p>	
<p>Relevant article of the Order</p>	<p>Insufficient information was available to evidence compliance in respect of the following matters:</p>	<p>Information required:</p>	<p>Date Required</p>
<p>Articles 4(1)(a) & 8</p>	<p>c. There was insufficient evidence available to demonstrate that emergency lighting provides sufficient illumination to safeguard prisoners and prison staff.</p>	<p>c. Evidence should be provided which demonstrates that a survey of emergency lighting has been undertaken to confirm the adequacy of lux levels i.e. for task based working.</p>	<p>On further request</p>

<p>3. STAFF INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACTIONS IN THE EVENT OF FIRE.</p>			
<p>CELL FIRE RESPONSE.</p>			
<p>Relevant article of the Order</p>	<p>Specific Failure to Comply with the Order</p>	<p>Steps considered necessary to remedy the failure to comply, including an illustrative example of a compliant measure</p>	<p>Action Plan Required</p>
<p>Articles 4(1)(f), 7(6), 8 & 15</p> <p>9</p> <p>9</p>	<p>a. i) Effective procedures have not been established for staff to sustain a water misting attack for 20 minutes.</p> <p>Immediate Cause of Failure:</p> <p><i>The fire risk assessor did not identify the significance of the risk</i></p> <p>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure:</p> <p><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></p> <p>b. The cell fire response plan was not time based</p>	<p>a. i) Effective procedures should be established for staff to sustain a water misting attack for 20 minutes.</p> <p>Safety Management Remedy:</p> <p><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></p> <p>b. The cell fire response plan should be time based</p>	<p>On further Request</p>

11	<p>i). The calculated pre-release movement times (PRMT) have not been validated through a practical test.</p> <p>Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>No suitable measure was in place.</i></p> <p>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure: <i>Arrangements for the day-to-day management of fire safety were inadequate.</i></p>	<p>based.</p> <p>i) The calculated pre-release movement times (PRMT) should be validated through a practical test.</p> <p>Safety Management Remedy: <i>Adequate arrangements are required for the day-to-day management of fire safety.</i></p>	
----	---	--	--

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
<p>Articles 4(1)(f), 7(6), 8, 13, 15 & 21</p> <p>11</p> <p>13&15</p>	<p>a. The training delivered to staff provides insufficient practical instruction on the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Inundation equipment ii. Cell fire response procedures <p>b. The wing staff would not always be able to implement the cell fire response plan safely and effectively.</p> <p>c. Intervention team staff were not always available during night state to support wing staff in dealing safely and effectively with cell fires, or to undertake the evacuation of other cells in the event that it became necessary.</p> <p>Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>No suitable measure was in place.</i></p> <p>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure: <i>The arrangements do not ensure that sufficient trained persons are available when necessary to carry out the fire action plan successfully and safely.</i></p>	<p>a. The training delivered to staff should provide sufficient practical instruction on the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Inundation equipment ii. Cell fire response procedures <p>b. A sufficient number of prison response staff members should be available at all material times to ensure that they can implement the cell fire response plan sufficiently to safeguard the prisoner within six minutes of the fire starting, including the time for fire detection.</p> <p>c. A sufficient number of Intervention staff should be available during night state to support wing staff in dealing safely and effectively with cell fires, or to undertake the evacuation of other cells in the event that it became necessary.</p> <p>Safety Management Remedy: <i>The arrangements must ensure that sufficient trained persons are available when necessary to carry out the fire action plan successfully and safely.</i></p>	<p>On further Request</p>

5. 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)(a-e), 7(6), 8 & 17 11 17	<p>a. The fire safety measures were not always being tested and maintained in good condition and effective working order.</p> <p>Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>The planned fire safety measure had not been implemented</i></p> <p>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure: <i>Inadequate maintenance arrangements</i></p>	<p>a. The fire safety measures should be tested and maintained in good condition and effective working order.</p> <p>Safety Management Remedy: <i>Adequate maintenance arrangements</i></p>	On further Request

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.