

Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group



Date: 25th November 2016

<redacted>
Governing Governor
HMP Portland
104 The Grove
Easton
Portland
Dorset
DT5 1DF.

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

Our Ref: 1211/016/01

Your Ref:

Please reply to: <redacted>

Dear Governor,

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

Premises: HMP Portland, 104 The Grove, Easton, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1DF.

Following the fire safety inspection of the above premises on **15th & 16th November 2016**, 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.

This letter should be read in conjunction with the attached RAG Risk Rating form, I have included additional information to assist you with planning what action to take. The schedule identifies in each case the 'immediate' (i.e. what has occurred at the establishment) and the likely 'underlying' (i.e. corporate) causes of the failures identified during the inspection. The final risk scores for the fire safety measures and risk scores 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 provides a clear decision framework for assigning RAG outcomes, which will also include a score for each bespoke General Fire Precaution. This is intended to improve/demonstrate consistency of judgments, and also to provide better information to you about the success of the safety management arrangements at managing risk.

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 Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser

CC - <redacted>

CC - <redacted>

CC - <redacted>

CC - <redacted>

CC - <redacted>

CC - <redacted>

CC - <redacted>

CC - <redacted>

Schedule

Premises: HMP Portland, 104 The Grove, Easton, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1DF.

File Number: 1211/016/01

Sheet: 1 of 3.

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the CFRA letter dated 25th November 2016.

1. PROTECTION OF STAFF AND PRISONERS.			
WARNING OF FIRE – MEASURES FOR FIRE-FIGHTING – RISK OF FIRE SPREAD – SECURING THE MEANS OF ESCAPE			
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. The coverage of cells by automatic fire detection was insufficient to provide early warning of fire and control the risk to an acceptable level.	a. The automatic fire protection for cells must ensure that prison staff members are alerted to cell fires sufficiently early to enable them to implement the cell fire response plan before foreseeable injury can be caused to prisoners and prison staff.	N/A
5	Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>Corrective works are under way, but not completed</i>	In the absence of fitted automatic fire detection protection for cells, interim protection should be provided through the use of domestic smoke alarms or domestic multi-sensing fire alarms. These should be fixed and orientated according to the manufacturer's instructions, and positioned within the area of predicted smoke travel due to a fire in a given cell. A number of potential solutions are possible, but the use of a single smoke or multi-sensing alarm within a cell or a smoke alarm externally above the hinge-edge of the cell door can also be acceptable as an interim measure.	
5	b. There was insufficient fire-fighting and ancillary equipment to effectively carry out the cell fire response plan. Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>Corrective works are under way, but not completed</i>	b. Sufficient water misting equipment, hose-reels & 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.	
5	c. Normal and/or emergency lighting doesn't provide sufficient illumination to safeguard prisoners and prison staff. Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>Corrective works are under way, but not completed</i>	c. Emergency routes and exits should be provided with sufficient normal and emergency lighting to enable safe evacuation to proceed in the absence of normal lighting.	

<p>5</p> <p>17</p>	<p>d. Measures to reduce the spread of fire and smoke were inadequate.</p> <p>Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>No appropriate corrective measure was identified for action</i></p> <p>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure: <i>There were inadequate arrangements for the maintenance of general fire precautions.</i></p> <p>e. The existing smoke control arrangements for enclosed landings / areas of corridor approach are inadequate to prevent smoke spread to other cells in the event of a cell fire</p> <p>Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>Corrective works are under way, but not completed</i></p> <p>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure: <i>There were inadequate arrangements for the maintenance of general fire precautions.</i></p>	<p>d.</p> <p>i) Fire hazard rooms – these are defined in BS9999 - giving onto common spaces in residential wings should be enclosed with fire-resistance.</p> <p>ii) 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: <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> <p>e. An effective mechanical smoke control system, based on engineering calculations and commissioned by a competent contractor, is required for areas of corridor approach and enclosed landings to ensure that they remain tenable.</p> <p>Safety Management Remedy: <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>	
--------------------	---	---	--

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
<p>Articles 4(1)(d), 7(6), 8 & 17</p> <p>17</p>	<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>Immediate Cause of Failure: <i>Contractor had not carried out the remedial works</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>N/A</p>

17	<p>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure: <i>There were inadequate arrangements for the maintenance of general fire precautions.</i></p>	<p>Safety Management Remedy: <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>	
----	--	---	--

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.