

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on Monday 19th June 2017

FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report deals with prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson incidents within the period 1 April to 1 June 2017

In addition, Fire Protection and Business Support Information is included in the report.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note the report.

FIRE SAFETY CONVICTIONS

Prosecutions under the regulatory reform (fire safety) order 2005 (RRO)

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) had two appeal hearings in May, another two cases are in court in June and further investigations are being carried out regarding, a Take Away in Lancaster, flats in Preston and a House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) in Blackpool.

Appeals

1. At the trial on 27 January 2017 Dr Bhatti was found guilty of four offences, at HMO 143 Manchester Road, Burnley, by the District Judge and fined £1,320 and LFRS were awarded a further £4000 costs.

Dr Muhammad Bhatti was unable to attend Burnley Crown Court on 23 May 2017 and the appeal hearing has been rescheduled for the 27th July 2017.

2. At the original trial on 11 November 2016 Magistrates found for the prosecution and Mr Laurence Daw had been ordered to pay a total of £5000.

On 23 May 2017 Mr Laurence Daw, the landlord of Broadclough Mill, Bacup who had abandoned his appeal against Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service was ordered to pay appeal costs of £1160 and 56 days to pay LFRS in full.

Ongoing cases

Two Plea hearings are due in court in June. Both premises have alleged serious breaches of fire safety regulations.

1. On 12 June 2017 - at Lancaster Magistrates Court; the case relates to the Sunnys Hotel in Morecambe.

2. On 16 June 2017 - at Burnley Magistrates Court; the case is against the owner and his company and a leaseholder of the Masons Arms Public House and flats in Rawtenstall.

FIRE PROTECTION & BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION

Primary Authority Scheme (PAS)

The first meeting of the CFOA NW Protection Primary Authority Group was hosted by Cheshire Fire Service on 25 April 2017. The group aims to provide learning from shared experience, develop a consistent approach to Primary Authority partnerships, consider areas of interest to the region and provide regional support in the development and management of PAS partnerships. LFRS will host the next regional group meeting in September.

LFRS is currently in talks with two large national chains within the licencing trade who contacted the Primary Authority Partnership Officer with a view to working together and further improving their premises fire safety provision, procedures and management.

Business Safety Advisors (BSA) Activity

The Business Safety Advisor in the Fylde coast area has undertaken extensive targeting of the premises which generated a large number Unwanted Fire Alarms for fire crews. By working with the Responsible Persons and the Fire Alarm Engineers, Unwanted Fire Signals at these premises have been significantly reduced.

During the days following the tragic events in Manchester there was an increase in Hate Crimes to BME owned premises. The Business Safety Advisor in the Eastern of the county in conjunction with Fire Safety Inspector prepared a letter highlighting the business support available from LFRS and sent it along with an Arson Vulnerability Assessment to all the Mosques and BME business that we have on our systems.

Public Events

Protection Officers, Local Authorities and relevant agencies continue to support Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) assist/advise organisers to plan safe public events and make sure that public safety at the event is always a major priority.

Darwen Live was held over the May Bank Holiday weekend. This went well (other than a disruptive 'bomb' hoax call at the town hall).

Elton John is playing Ewood Park in Blackburn 10 June 2017 and Gold/Silver command will be in place with added Police presence due to the Manchester attack. Operational crews and Station Managers will be briefed before the event by the organisers.

Arson Risk Reduction

The publication **Arson Risk Reduction Preserving Life and Heritage in the North West** has been produced by Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service with the cooperation of Historic England and the other North West Fire Services. National Fire Chiefs Council fully endorses this Arson Risk Reduction guidance to be used by all Fire & Rescue Services and anyone responsible for managing heritage sites.

ARSON CONVICTIONS

There are no Arson Cases to report upon on this occasion, though we have 5 cases awaiting sentencing and another 4 court cases pending, all of which will be reported on in due course.

Business Risk

Moderate – Members need to be aware of prosecutions related to fire safety activity and/or arson within Lancashire in order to satisfy themselves that the required robust approach is being pursued.

Environmental Impact

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

HR Implications

None

Financial Implications

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		