

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 17 June 2019

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 April and May.

In addition, Fire Protection and Business Support Information are included in this report.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note and endorse the report.

FIRE SAFETY CONVICTIONS.

The case against Graham Hammer, Derby Court Hotel, Pole Street Preston, was heard at a pre-sentencing hearing at Preston Crown Court, Mr Hammer pleading guilty to 4 offences of the Fire Safety Order on the 14/05/2019. The sentencing will take place on the 28/06/2019.

A Simple Caution was issued by Acting Area Manager Crook in respect of a property on Alexandra Road, Morecambe; in these premises (a home of multiple occupation) a number of fire safety issues were found following activation of the fire alarm by smoke. The use of the Simple Caution in lieu of legal proceedings can be offered in certain cases whenever it is considered appropriate to do so for alleged offences committed under fire safety legislation. The use of the Simple Caution enables LFRS to deal quickly and simply with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 offences, where the seriousness of the offence could warrant a prosecution but where the circumstances of a very compliant responsible persons attitude ensures that all fire safety provision is quickly achieved and that the responsible person acknowledges that they have committed the offence.

Pre-trial work is currently underway with a hotel in Blackpool and further updates will be provided as this case progresses.

FIRE PROTECTION & BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION

Risk Based Inspection Programme

The risk based inspection programme is well-embedded and a programme of work is underway to enhance the provision to make targeting easier and more streamlined. We also now have an MSc graduate from Lancaster University who is on placement with LFRS. Their specific areas of focus are to stress test and academically appraise the Risk Based Inspection methodology. The likelihood is that this work will further enhance our ability to accurately target risk premises.

Business Support Website

The business support website is now covered within the main LFRS website and managed by corporate comms department. This new system is working well and feedback from the Responsible Persons who have used this provision is positive.

Business Safety

Business Safety Advisers have attended the recent health and wellbeing expo in Blackpool as way of engaging with many business owners within the one location. Literature and advice was provided to many of those in attendance and further information has been cascaded digitally.

We have had one candidate pass their level 3 qualification and two of these will be progressing to level 4 in September. Additionally, the business safety advisors are now concentrating on self-store units as an area of focus as this premises type poses an increased risk due to poor management of combustible products brought in by users.

Due to the current cohort of six business support advisors, this has allowed them more time to connect with local businesses, primarily by the SHOUT network, which gives us the opportunity to network and to promote our work.

Meetings have also been held with the new Lancashire Police Business Crime manager Michael Grimes. Opportunities are being explored with regards to closer working relationships between Mr Grimes and LFRS Business Support Advisers identifying links between Antisocial Behaviour and Arson on business premises.

Primary Authority Scheme (PAS)

LFRS now has 12 registered partnerships Barchester Healthcare, Four Seasons Healthcare, Amber Taverns, Torus 62 housing, Daniel Thwaites, Warwick Estates, EH Booths, Regenda Group, Progress Housing Group, PBSA Student Roost, St Catherine's Hospice & Inclusion Housing. Witherslack Group is awaiting confirmation.

New agreements have now been formalised with Torus 62, Barchester, Four Seasons, Regenda, Amber Taverns, Warwick Estates, EH Booths, Daniel Thwaites & Inclusion. There have also been discussions with PAS with 2 other companies.

ARSON RISK REDUCTION

Currently, LFRS is awaiting updates and outcomes from court cases.

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 & 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 2, if appropriate: N/A		