

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on the 24 February 2020

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 of the 1st November 2019 to the 1st February 2020

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

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note and endorse the report.

FIRE SAFETY CONVICTIONS.

LFRS v Alan Diamond, Cornhill Hotel, 377 – 379 Promenade, Blackpool.

The Cornhill Hotel was issued a Prohibition Notice (PN) on the 06/08/2018 due to serious failures of fire safety provisions which placed relevant persons sleeping at the hotel at risk of serious injury or death in case of fire.

The case was heard at Blackpool Magistrates Court on the 04/12/2019 and due to the limited sentencing powers of the court the case was sent to be heard at Preston Crown Court on the 03/01/2020.

On the 03/01/2020 the Pre-Trial Preparation Hearing was heard at Preston Crown Court, as not guilty pleas were entered to the charges a trial date has been set to start on the 01/06/2020 to last four days.

LFRS v Aheed Sultan

On the 4th September, 2017 the Fire Safety Team Leader for Western Area visited 96-98 Albert Road, Blackpool, FY1 4PR. Whilst at the premises the Team Leader observed a number of serious breaches of the Fire Safety Order that would cause serious injury or death in a fire situation.

The decision was made to prohibit the use of the hotel on the day, a prosecution case file was prepared and the responsible person, AS, was summonsed to attend Blackpool Magistrates Court on the 15/05/2019.

The case was heard at Blackpool Magistrates Court, AS pleaded not guilty to all offences, due to the limited sentencing powers the case was sent to Preston Crown Court for a Pre

Trial Preparation Hearing which was heard on the 19/07/2019 where AS pleaded not guilty to all offences, a trial date of the 4th November at Preston Crown Court was set.

On the 31st October 2019 AS pleaded guilty to 8 of 10 offences of the Fire Safety Order avoiding the case going to trial. Sentencing will take place at Preston Crown Court on the 04/02/2020.

Gordon Working Mens Club, Springfield Street, Morecambe.

On the 09/10/2019 at the Gordon Working Men's Club, Springfield Road, Morecambe two persons were fatally injured as a result of a serious fire.

The joint investigation into the fire is being carried out between the Police and LFRS.

Multi Occupied Dwelling 284 Burnley Road Colne.

On the 30/07/2019 a fire claimed the life of one of the residents of the property. A prosecution case file is being prepared and the investigation is in its early stages.

Case files under preparation

Multi Occupied dwelling Morecambe

Istanbul Restaurant Blackburn

Multi Occupied Dwelling Blackpool

Multi Occupied Dwelling Bamber Bridge

Multi Occupied Dwelling Chorley

FIRE PROTECTION & BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION

Risk Based Inspection Programme

Over the last two years, LFRS has devised, launched, evaluated and reviewed the Risk Based Inspection Programme. All learning from this process has been shared at both regional and national levels.

Due to this and to more closely align with the expectations of Her Majesty's Inspectorate, together with all the best practice we have developed, the programme is being recalculated with a view to the new version being in place for 1 April 2020.

AM Tony Crook, GM Mark Hutton, SM Phil Garside & SM Lister Haworth all attended the NFCC Risk Based Inspection Programme Conference hosted by Merseyside F&RS. Over one hundred persons attended the conference.

AM Tony Crook delivered a presentation on the North West Methodology and Lancashire's evaluation of the programme which was well received.

Business Support Website

The business support website is now covered within the main LFRS website and managed by corporate communications department. This new system is working well.

Business Safety

In December 2019 two BSA officers attended Fleetwood's Freeport Centre to discuss and arrange joint working alongside the centre management in order to give them an awareness of issues we find in retail units and also an understanding of the requirements under the fire safety order. A visit has been arranged for the week commencing the 3rd February 2020 to visit every unit and issue business safety advice and work with the units to reduce the risk of fire.

In January 2020 two BSA officers took part in a police intelligence operation in East Lancashire. The operation included visiting a number of post offices and delivering business safety advice along with arson prevention advice to each of the post offices.

Primary Authority Scheme (PAS)

LFRS now has 15 registered partnerships with a portfolio of Residential Care, Social Housing and Retail.

Barchester Healthcare , Four Seasons Healthcare, Amber Taverns, Daniel Thwaites, Warwick Estates, EH Booths, Regenda Group, Progress Housing Group, Student Roost, Torus 62, St Catherine's Hospice, Inclusion Housing, Witherslack Group, My Space Housing, Coasts & Castles.

There have also been discussions with three other very interested companies;

1. Assent Housing
2. HC One
3. The Wrekin Housing Trust

ARSON RISK REDUCTION

R v John WILSON

25 Maurice Street, Nelson BB9 7HT.

Incident – 1911006378.

Date and Time of call – 15/11/2019 @ 23:09hrs.

This Incident involved a Male pouring petrol over a front door after a domestic disturbance. There was no fire but an Incident Intelligence Officer was involved to document the evidence and support the prosecution.

John WILSON attended Burnley Crown court in January 2020 and was sentenced to a 16 month prison sentence along with a 5 year restraining order.

R v Kevin GRIFFITHS

8 Grosvenor Street, Preston PR1 4JH.

Incident – 1812003388.

Date and Time of call – 12/12/2018 @ 01:11 hrs.

This Incident involved a Male where letters and papers had been deliberate placed under the grill to cause a fire.

Kevin GRIFFITHS attended Preston Crown court in January 2020 and was given a two year sentence suspended for two years with a requirement to carry out 45 days of rehabilitation activities.

R v Matthew MILLBURN

70 Kings Drive, Carnforth LA5 9AN.

Incident – 1910010062.

Date and Time of call – 28/10/2019 @ 22:00 hrs.

This Incident involved a Male who ignited several fires within a property on the stairs, landing and bedroom using toilet rolls.

Matthew MILLBURN attended Preston Magistrates court on 13th November 2019 and was sentenced to 100hrs community work.

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:		