

Your Reference LFRS/CRMP

Our Reference [REDACTED]

Contact [REDACTED]



GREATER MANCHESTER  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



06 October 2021

Dear Sirs

**RE: LANCASHIRE FRS CRMP 2022-27 - CONSULTATION**

I am writing in response to the consultation on your CRMP 2022-27. Our response considers the proposals set out in your consultation document and assesses how they may impact our own current and future service delivery plans.

Firstly, we would like to say we found the document itself is really clear, accessible, and easy to understand. It avoids jargon and clearly sets out your ambitions for the future.

Your Prevention Strategy clearly details the areas that will be focused on to support delivery of your strategy, working towards preventing emergencies from happening in the first place, to save lives, reduce injuries, fire deaths and other losses..

We acknowledge and support your approach to continue to invest and develop staff in fire safety regulations and the built environment to better protect communities and businesses. We also agree that it is important to build on the learnings from the pandemic to evolve the Service, and this is something we are also developing as part of resetting our ways of working.

In GMFRS we are also refining our Home Fire Safety Assessment to ensure our offer effectively targets those most at risk and provides a person-centered approach utilising the Safelincs Triage system.



We also welcome your drive to improve water safety through the establishment of a local partnership, further supported by the development of incident intelligence to refine approaches to campaigns. This work may provide opportunities to collaborate on similar campaigns and initiatives to reduce the number of water related deaths and we look forward to reading your new Water Safety Strategy. Next year we are undertaking a Water Safety Summit to explore opportunities to reduce the risks through infrastructure initiatives and communication campaigns, and if you would like more information on this please let us know.

We support LFRS continued strategic collaborations to raise awareness of fire safety and improve safety standards. Refining approaches to meet the needs of the customers, particularly in the current climate, assists with ensuring economic sustainability whilst minimising risk and keeping business safe and resilient.

We support your review of your AFA Policy, this is something we have undertaken and seen positive results in both the number of incidents and mobilisations, with a 25% reduction in incidents and 40% in mobilisations.

It is pleasing to see that LFRS are continuing to adopt the NFCC Competency Framework for Fire Safety Regulators, supporting the direction of travel that all FRS's are taking nationally. We support your ambition to adapt your regulatory services and ensure all availability of staff who are suitably trained and accredited in line with the new Fire Safety Act and Building safety bill, maintaining operational competence, and helping to support and promote the interface between fire safety and operational staff.

GMFRS welcomes the opportunity for strategic, regional collaboration to mutually support our Partner Services as we review Protection working practices following the pandemic to ensure that they are as efficient and effective as possible. As part of continual improvement, GMFRS would see the business engagement and education areas as well as Primary Authority as two excellent opportunities for ongoing collaboration. GMFRS is also in the process of reviewing its approach to reducing false alarms and would see this as a further potential opportunity to work together and share experience and understanding with regional partners.

Saving lives is a fundamental part of the role of a firefighter, ensuring a rapid response to emergencies in an effort to preserve life, and as such every second counts, which is a key element to protecting people and property.

We are in the process of introducing Wildfires Suppression Burns Team into stations where the risks are more prevalent, along with a range of new equipment to assist with tackling wildfires. We would welcome the opportunity to review our approach against your new Wildfire Strategy, and would appreciate it if you would share this with us when it is available.

We are pleased with Lancs FRS' continued commitment to the North West NFCC meetings, and through this group, we are also committed to innovating, sharing best practice and resources, where needed.

Working in an integrated way with actively support local integration to create a shared and accurate understanding of changing risk that targets resources at the most vulnerable and provides a place-specific, joint response to local issues, improving both effectiveness and leveraging efficiencies.

We welcome the opportunity for integrated working with Lancs FRS to create a more effective response to complex, large-scale problems such as the terrorist threat, the climate emergency and the risks within the built environment, risks that cannot be addressed by single organisations.

There appears to be nothing in your plans that affects GMFRS' response activities at present. However, as matters progress, if there are any changes affecting Section 13 agreements with us then we would appreciate if you could please notify us.

We recognise the importance of investing in training, and we plan to complete our training centre at Bury, building further on our own facilities. It would be good to explore the scope for developing collaborative training programmes across the two sites to share good practice, different facilities and joined-up responding.

All fire and rescue services are in a difficult financial situation, with services looking at the best way to continue to provide effective fire cover through a variety of ways. We recognise the challenges of reduced government funding, forcing FRSs to make some fundamental and tactical decisions about community safety based not on resilience or service improvement, but on what are the 'least worst' cuts to make. We welcome opportunities where a joint approach between FRSs, will not only be more effective, but will also provide greater value for money if resources are pooled.

We are committed to learning from other fire and rescue services, and we welcome all opportunities to mutually share best practice and operational learnings.

If you wish to discuss any of the above details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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