

The Ops-Protection WM Role Proposals towards 2020

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Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Aim

- ▶ To present a **proposal** for a new hybrid role that bridges Community Fire Protection and Fire & Rescue Operations.
- ▶ The proposal is based upon the value offer



Objectives

- ▶ Provide an overview of the history of operational officers in Protection;
- ▶ Detail the rationale behind the proposals;
- ▶ Identify the value of operational officers to Protection;
- ▶ Identify the value of Protection officers to FRS operations;
- ▶ Outline the hybrid role job
- ▶ Consider case studies
- ▶ Identify potential shift options



History

- ▶ 1974 – Grey book prominence
- ▶ Operational expert to Technical expert;
- ▶ Introduction of Green Book Technical Officers;
- ▶ Green v Grey Protection Officers
 - ▶ Differential?
 - ▶ Strengths / Limitations
- ▶ Missed the obvious



2020 Review Methodology

1. Identify key strategic objectives that drive **why** MF&RS need to deliver Protection services;
2. Identify **what** MF&RS need to deliver in order to meet the strategic objectives;
3. Identify **what** are the most suitable resources to deliver the objectives;
4. Identify **how** the function of Protection can be best structured to meet the requirements;
5. Consider **how** Protection can obtain sufficient capacity to meet short, medium and long-term objectives.



Key Strategic Drivers (Why?)

The following strategic driver influence what we are required to do and how we are required to do it:

- ▶ Legislation placing responsibilities on the Authority;
- ▶ Government expectations:
 - ▶ National Framework (& IRMP);
 - ▶ Knight Review;
- ▶ MF&RS Mission Statement.
- ▶ CFOA Business Safety Strategy 2013-16.



The seven-step plan

Our priorities

The changes in fire safety legislation over the last two decades have resulted in differing approaches to enforcement and the advice offered to businesses has varied in a similar way. Recent changes in fire safety law have provided UK Fire and Rescue Services with consolidated legislation applied on a risk basis, that coupled with the Better Regulation agenda, has enabled Services to provide a rounded assortment of services from advice and information through to formal enforcement processes – this strategy document highlights the salient challenges that remain.

Priority 1

Promote firefighter safety and sound operational decision-making by incident commanders through the provision of information about the built environment.

Priority 3

Promote consistency and common application of the legislation by delivering clear processes, effective development of staff and guidance to protection officers and managers.

ACCREDITED
FIRE ENGINEERING
STANDARDISED SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE
KNOWLEDGE OF FIRE AND SPREAD
TECHNICAL STANDARDS
DATA AND INTELLIGENCE
SHARING INFORMATION
RISK BASED INSPECTION PROGRAMMES
LEAD BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Priority 2

Develop a framework of qualifications and competence for protection officers, managers and fire engineers.

Priority 4
Share exemplary projects and promote good regulatory practice which provides information to businesses through collaborative working with the aim of supporting business growth.



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
ADVICE AND INFORMATION
INFORMAL ADVICE
INCREASED CONFIDENCE IN FIRE RISK ASSESSORS

BETTER UNDERSTANDING
WEBSITE, APPS, FACE
COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

Priority 1

Promote firefighter safety and sound operational decision-making by incident commanders through the provision of information about the built environment.

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SHARING INFORMATION
PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

Safe, Effective Firefighters

- ▶ Fire safety technical knowledge to support and enhance operational preparedness;
- ▶ Fire safety technical knowledge to support and enhance incident tactics & management.



Safer, Stronger Communities

- ▶ Prevent fire losses, fire fatalities and injuries in properties covered by fire safety legislation;
- ▶ Influence standards of fire safety in the built environment;
- ▶ Support Business Safety & Economic Growth.



Role Review – Grey book limitations

- ▶ Currently development runs in isolation of people & organisational development;
- ▶ The legacy rationale for the grey book role in Protection is flawed;
- ▶ Deficit of technical competence in Ops crews;
- ▶ Quality Assurance is inadequate;
- ▶ Succession of Grey book Protection officers against the CFOA NQ&CF is unsustainable;
- ▶ Value of Operations-Protection expertise not achieved or recognised;
- ▶ Technical Response limitations – No provision



Role Review - Grey book advantages

- ▶ Safe, effective firefighters;
- ▶ Operational language;
- ▶ Development opportunities;
- ▶ Experience of fire behaviour;
- ▶ Commitment to prevent fires & associated injuries/fatalities;
- ▶ Maintenance of competence;



WMB Operational Protection

- ▶ Protection (0.5 Post)
- ▶ Operations (0.5 Post)
- ▶ Operational aspects of Protection
 - ▶ SSRI
 - ▶ Risk Intelligence
 - ▶ Peak Hours Audits
 - ▶ Fires in the Built Environment (T&D)
 - ▶ Tactical adviser
 - ▶ Article 31 response
 - ▶ Performance management.



SSRI

- ▶ Risk prioritisation & coordination
- ▶ Quality assurance of SSRI Planning & Performance
 - ▶ Whiston Hospital, no recognition of fire engineered solutions or the fire risk management strategy (PHE);
 - ▶ Central Library – FR Construction identified, heritage plan included
- ▶ Support to Ops Crews at complex / challenging SSRIs
 - ▶ B5 Building Reg's – Firefighting facilities
 - ▶ Elements of Structure / Compartmentation
 - ▶ Operational considerations
- ▶ Quality Assurance of Protection elements of SSRI
- ▶ Dual purpose (SSRI/Audit) coordination
 - ▶ Regulators code



Risk Critical Intelligence

- ▶ **Oversee Fire Safety Operations Information Notes**
(previously FSI 50's)
- ▶ **Coordination**
- ▶ **Interpretation**
- ▶ **Action Planning**
- ▶ **Quality Assurance**



Peak Hours Audits

- ▶ Coordination
- ▶ Support to Ops Crews
 - ▶ Care Home Visits
 - ▶ High-rise Visits
- ▶ Support to Fire Safety Officers
- ▶ Cross-map to SSRI (planning & enhancing)
- ▶ Quality Assurance



Fires in the Built Environment

- ▶ Initial Input – acquisition & maintenance
- ▶ Modular Input – continual development
- ▶ Monitoring / Assurance
- ▶ Review
 - ▶ New & emerging themes
 - ▶ National incidents
- ▶ Application
 - ▶ Exercise planning & delivery
 - ▶ Debriefs
 - ▶ Case studies
- ▶ Assessment / Verification



Tactical Advisor

- ▶ HazMat / DIM / USAR model - 24 / 7 response
- ▶ PDA for complex premises / On request form OiC
- ▶ Tactical advice to Incident Commander
 - ▶ Fire behaviour (construction, contents, loading)
 - ▶ Fire engineered solutions / Fire suppression systems
 - ▶ Salvage considerations (e.g. Heritage/Business Continuity)
- ▶ Technical advisor to Fire Investigations
 - ▶ E.g. – Hard Days Night Hotel
- ▶ Technical Advice to NILO (emergency lighting)
- ▶ Technical Advice to Ops Planning
 - ▶ Event planning
 - ▶ Exercises (COMAH, Tac-Ex's, etc)



Article 31 Response

- ▶ **Support to Article 31 Officer**
 - ▶ Provide technical / legal (within limits) advice
 - ▶ Breaches to legislation
 - ▶ Issuing Cautions
 - ▶ Preserve / Gather evidence
 - ▶ E.g. Sandown Service Station – Petrol Leak
 - ▶ Coordinate / Take statements
 - ▶ Liaise with Protection Enforcement Officers
 - ▶ Support Issue of a Prohibition Notice



Performance Management

- ▶ Protection / Operations Station Performance
 - ▶ UwFS
 - ▶ Fire Safety Visits
 - ▶ Business Support Campaigns
- ▶ Monitor & Review
- ▶ Highlight / Exception Reporting
- ▶ Support functional planning
- ▶ Coordinate delivery of Protection elements for Ops Crews





Case Studies

Modern Building Construction – Sandwich Cladding, Ventilation

Fire-loading – fire-growth (0-25 mW Fire)

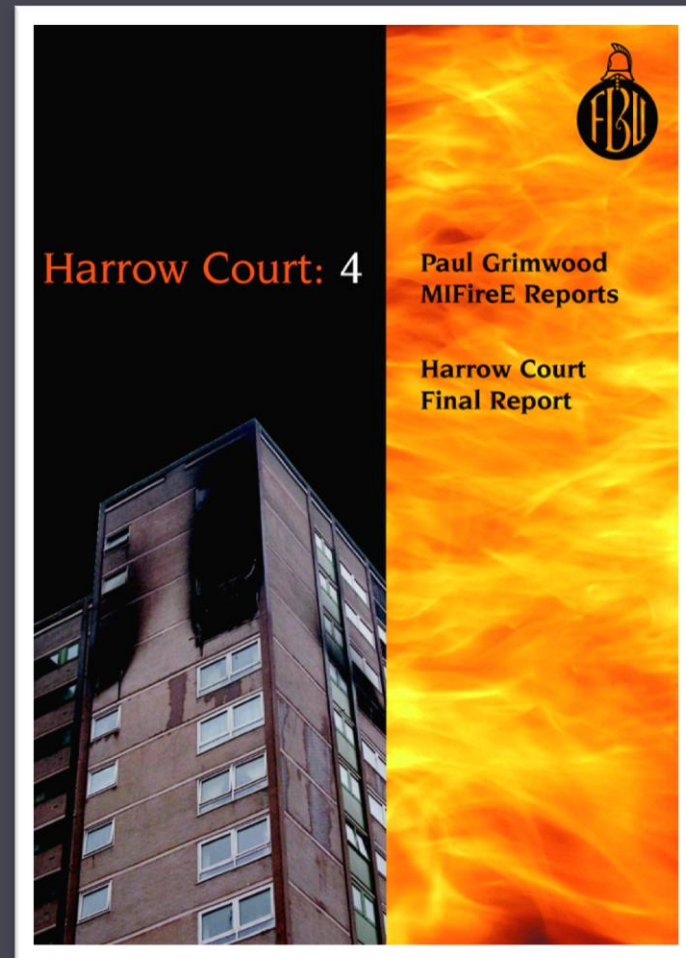
Sharing of FS Intelligence

Changing interiors (Missing Fire Door, Flexible Design Partitioning)



Harrow Court

- Lack of pre-planning & familiarisation with structures
- Ineffective & incomplete documented procedures for high-rise building fires
- Firefighters were clearly unfamiliar with the building & its fire protective features, paying little attention to the fire lifts, the nearest hydrant or the stair-shaft venting systems.
- The actions of the first 2 officers on-scene demonstrated a lack of experience of this type of incident.



St Johns Precinct (January 2015)

Response - Sprinkler Activation

Post-Response - Notification to the National Fire Sprinkler Network about a successful operation of a sprinkler system

Knowledge and understanding of how AFD/fixed installations can assist in locating and extinguishing a fire



1 Russell Road, South Liverpool

- ▶ **Article 31 Failure – Prohibition Notice**
 - ▶ Means of Escape
 - ▶ No emergency lights
 - ▶ Obstructions on escape routes
 - ▶ Means of giving warning
 - ▶ Fire Separation



Complex Buildings Examples

- ▶ Liverpool One Car Park – Jet Fans
- ▶ Medium-rise Timber Framed Building
- ▶ Liverpool Museum
- ▶ Sub-surface Railways
- ▶ West Tower
- ▶ Aloft Hotel
- ▶ New Royal

