

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Title of policy/report/project:	Enforcement and Prosecutions under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RR(FS)O 2005) and Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations (MSER) 2005
Department:	Community Fire Protection
Date:	09.06.2012
1: What is the aim or purpose of the policy/report/project	
<i>This should identify "the legitimate aim" of the policy/report/project (there may be more than one)</i>	
To ensure that the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 are applied effectively and fairly within non domestic premises in Merseyside to comply with our legislative requirements to support the MFRS Mission.	
2: Who will be affected by the policy/report/project?	
<i>This should identify the persons/organisations who may need to be consulted about the policy /report/project and its outcomes (There may be more than one)</i>	
All persons with responsibility for the management of premise other than for single domestic dwellings and residents of these premises, All employers and employees	
3. Monitoring	
<i>Summarise the findings of any monitoring data you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include data which shows whether the it is having the desired outcomes and also its impact on members of different equality groups.</i>	
What monitoring data have you considered?	What did it show?
Monitoring of the enforcement and	It identifies trends, affected groups and those at risk, including those groups more likely to offend.

prosecution register	Those groups that are then identified (evidenced in the protected groups sections) will then form the plan for engagement in order to reduce risk.
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4: Research

Summarise the findings of any research you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include quantitative data and qualitative information; anything you have obtained from other sources e.g. CFOA/CLG guidance, other FRSs, etc

What research have you considered?	What did it show?
CFOA Guidance and examples of best practice disseminated via the CFOA network	The impact that a consistent approach to enforcement and prosecution has on reducing risk in the communities.

5. Consultation

Summarise the opinions of any consultation. Who was consulted and how? (This should include reference to people and organisations identified in section 2 above) Outline any plans to inform consultees of the results of the consultation

What Consultation have you undertaken?	What did it say?
N/A	Consultation is not required as enforcement and prosecution is a statutory duty placed on MFRA. Information and advice appertaining to the Responsible Person can be found on the MFRS website.

6. Conclusions

Taking into account the results of the monitoring, research and consultation, set out how the policy/report/project impacts or could impact on people from the following protected groups? (Include positive and/or negative impacts)

(a) Age

This policy will positively affect those older people as they are amongst those who are most likely to suffer from poor fire safety provisions in their accommodation / workplace – particularly those in the private landlord sector , for example nursing homes and sheltered accommodation

(b) Disability including mental, physical and sensory conditions)

This policy will positively affect this group as they are amongst those who are most likely to suffer from poor fire safety provisions in their accommodation – particularly those in the private landlord sector and those people living in premises managed by the responsible person.

(c) Race (include: nationality, national or ethnic origin and/or colour)

This policy will positively affect this group as they are amongst those who are most likely to suffer from poor fire safety provisions in their accommodation/ workplace – particularly those in the private landlord sector and in small businesses (e.g. restaurants, farming, factory work and labouring) and that on minimum wage. In summary those who are most vulnerable in society.

MFRA has identified certain groups, for example, South Asian families who have had a higher percentage of enforcements than other ethnic groups due to the nature of their business. This has resulted in a planned increase in engagement and education from prevention and protection staff to raise awareness and reduce risk.

(d) Religion or Belief

As with (C) MFRA have identified certain groups, for example, South Asian families, predominantly Muslim and Sikh who have had a higher percentage of enforcements than other religious groups due to the nature of their business. This has resulted in a planned increase in engagement and education from prevention and protection staff to raise awareness and reduce risk.

(e) Sex (include gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership and pregnancy or maternity)

The policy provides a consistent approach to all premises and does not discriminate against any particular gender group marital or civil status.

(f) Sexual Orientation

The policy provides a consistent approach to all premises and does not discriminate against any particular gender group. MFRA will analyse the register to identify potential geographical locations where enforcement and prosecution is taking place and whether particular groups from within those areas are identified. Local knowledge and engagement with partners will assist in MFRA in identifying protected groups within specific geographical areas.

(g) Socio-economic disadvantage

This policy will positively affect this group as they are amongst those who are most likely to suffer from poor fire safety provisions in their accommodation / workplace – particularly those in the private landlord sector , those in the small business sector (e.g. restaurants, farming, factory work, labouring) and those on minimum wage as stated under the comments in (a).

Currently those workers and families who own and work in takeaways and restaurants and reside in those properties have been subject to enforcement and prosecution. The trend is that they are located in the more deprived wards of the County as identified via post code. MFRA will promote fire safety awareness to the groups via the website and active engagement.

7. Decisions

If the policy/report/project will have a negative impact on members of one or more of the protected groups, explain how it will change or why it is to continue in the same way.

If no changes are proposed, the policy/report/project needs to be objectively justified as being an appropriate and necessary means of achieving the legitimate aim set out in 1 above.

This workstream ensures that all persons living and working on Merseyside can do so in a fire safe environment. It enforces the legislation fairly across all socio economic and racial boundaries and provides a safer environment for our fire fighters to operate. The prosecution of serious offenders in line with legislative and government guidance also serves as a means to ensure that other responsible persons, business owners and employers are aware of the need to comply with the legislation to ensure the safety of people for whom they are responsible

8. Equality Improvement Plan

List any changes to our policies or procedures that need to be included in the Equality Action Plan/Service Plan.

9. Equality & Diversity Sign Off

The completed EIA form must be signed off by the Diversity Manager before it is submitted to Strategic Management Group or Authority.

Signed off by:

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Date:

27.6.2012

Action Planned	Responsibility of	Completed by

For any advice, support or guidance about completing this form please contact the DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk or on 0151 296 4237

The completed form along with the related policy/report/project document should be emailed to the Diversity Team at: DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk