



# Home Office

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Home Office

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To: Phil Garrigan  
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To: Cllr Leslie Byrom  
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority  
[leslie.byrom@councillors.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:leslie.byrom@councillors.sefton.gov.uk)

28 July 2020

## **Grant Payment to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority**

I am writing to seek your acceptance of funding covering two grants to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority. The first grant of one hundred and thirty-five thousand, three hundred and twenty-three pounds and sixty-nine pence (£135,323.69) is for the Building Risk Review Programme. The second grant of three hundred and eighty-eight thousand, eight hundred and seventy-four pounds and eighty-three pence (£388,874.83) is for the Protection Uplift Programme. The funding is provided as per the agreed funding allocations set out in Annex A.

This is a one-year funding arrangement intended to make a significant impact in driving improvement in the protection function within fire and rescue services, tackling risk in the built environment and supporting the Building Risk Review work that is overseen by the Fire Protection Board. The grant conditions cover two separate programmes:

- i. The Building Risk Review Programme – which will deliver a review of all high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres by the end of December 2021.
- ii. The Protection Uplift Programme – which support initial improvements in local protection capability.

We look forward to supporting your mobilisation of the funding and working with you during the lifetime of the arrangement to help make a real difference.

Payment of these monies is subject to your acceptance of this offer and the standard terms and conditions of the Grant Letter.

### **Building Risk Review Grant**

#### **Funding purpose**

Delivery of the Building Risk Review (BRR) programme in Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, as detailed within NFCC Appendices of BRR programme, with continued guidance and support of the Fire Protection Board to achieve a review of the fire safety arrangements in all in scope high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres by December 2021.

#### **Grant Restrictions**

The following grant restrictions will apply:

- The grant is ring-fenced to expenditure by fire and rescue services in England in discharging fire protection duties.
- Expenditure must be incurred in assuring that all high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres - identified in each service area - are reviewed by end of December 2021 and that a framework for identification and inspection is in place.
- Data returns to the Home Office via the Fire Protection Board Secretariat on the work achieved towards the above will be required, in line with the monitoring and reporting requirements stipulated in this grant letter.
- Evidence of grant expenditure applied to the grant will be required on a quarterly basis to cover each three-month period until all the funds have been spent.

#### **Conditions of expenditure**

Expenditure should be incurred for the purposes of undertaking the BRR programme, ensuring that in scope high-rise residential buildings over 18m identified in each FRS area are subject to an initial risk assessment and depending on that outcome, visited or audited by the end of the December 2021.

Categories of expenditure are listed at Annex B. Under this grant, pension abatement costs **will not be** deemed acceptable expenditure.

### ***Monitoring and reporting requirements***

#### **Financial reporting**

- Sign-off of grant expenditure by the S151/S112 officer will be required on a quarterly basis to cover each quarter until funds are fully spent.
- First quarterly reporting (if funds have been spent) will be required by 31<sup>st</sup> August and quarterly thereafter.
- FRS will need to complete the financial return with the type of spend specified, which is attached at Annex B

### **Monitoring requirements**

The monitoring return for this grant will align with the returns provided to the Fire Protection Board Secretariat.

Monthly reporting will be required by FRS until 31 March 2021 or the funds are fully spent and provided to the Home Office via Fire Protection Board Secretariat. The following will be captured as part of the BRR returns:

- A. How many buildings have had an initial review;
- B. How many remaining for an initial review;
- C. The number of higher risk buildings identified requiring an audit;
- D. The number of lower risk buildings identified which do not require an audit;
- E. The number of audits completed;
- F. Enforcement action taken after an audit (number);
- G. Breakdown of the type of enforcement action taken and the number.

This reporting will be submitted via a monthly BRR spreadsheet, to the Fire Protection Board Secretariat.

FRS will also need to provide an initial brief description on trajectory of their programme with milestones to the Home Office via Fire Protection Board Secretariat, by Wednesday 5 August.

## **Protection Uplift Grant**

### **Funding purpose**

To bolster the fire protection capability and delivery, aligning with locally agreed integrated risk management plans and risk-based inspection programmes in Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.

### **Grant Restrictions**

The following grant restrictions will apply:

- The grant is ring-fenced to expenditure by fire and rescue services in England in discharging fire protection duties.
- Returns to the Home Office via the Fire Protection Board Secretariat on the work achieved towards the above will be required.
- Evidence of grant expenditure applied to the grant will be required on a quarterly basis to cover each three-month period up to 31 March 2021 or until the funds are fully spent.

### **Conditions of expenditure**

Expenditure should be incurred for the purposes of bolstering the fire protection capability and delivery in line with locally agreed integrated risk management plans and risk-based inspection programmes. The aim of the grant is to build long-term capability within fire protection functions, so there's an expectation that funding would be used to cover areas such as:

## **Workforce**

- Increasing protection resource;
- Engaging front line crews more on low level protection;
- Upskilling of operational staff;
- Improving competency, accreditation, and qualifications;
- Career pathways in protection.

## **Technology**

- Using an innovative approach to online training;
- Making existing data systems work better including through the development of new data tools;
- Digital platform (protection, prevention and risk);
- Hardware (tablets, body cams).

Categories of expenditure are listed at Annex B. Under this grant, pension abatement costs **will not be** deemed acceptable expenditure.

## ***Monitoring and reporting requirements***

### **Financial reporting**

- Sign off of expenditure by the S151/S112 officer will be required on a quarterly basis to cover each quarterly period up to 31 March 2021 or until the funds are fully spent.
- First quarterly reporting will be required by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and quarterly thereafter.
- FRSs will need to complete the financial return attached at Annex B with the type of spend specified.

### **Monitoring requirements**

- FRS to provide to the Home Office via the Fire Protection Secretariat by end of August 2020 a return on how they intend to spend the Protection Uplift funding and how they will meet the grant agreement requirement to increase protection capability with outputs clearly detailed.
- Quarterly reporting will be required by FRS until 31 March 2021 provided to the Home Office via the Fire Protection Board Secretariat, using a standard template. Further details on these returns will follow shortly.
- Returns are likely to include data covering the below metrics. Returns should be related to the outputs detailed in the August 2020 return. Analysis may include (but is not limited to):
  - A. How many staff have been employed, (please indicate roles eg. Fire Safety Officer, data analyst, back filling posts, other)
  - B. How many staff trained and to what qualification level.
  - C. How many staff accredited and with what organisation.
  - D. An increase in number of high-risk buildings audited.
  - E. An increase of engagement (FSO hours).
  - F. How many hits on website / events.
  - G. What IT solutions have been developed to meet objectives.

H. What equipment has been purchased. (commentary required)

I. Investment or capital expenditure. (commentary required)

- FRS will also need to provide protection data, including on the number of audits undertaken and outcomes by different building types. A standard template will be provided for this return.

To confirm acceptance of this offer of grant funding, please sign and return one copy of the Grant Letter to: [fireprotection@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:fireprotection@homeoffice.gov.uk) by Friday 7 August. The Grant Letter must be returned with signed approval from your Finance Director in the section overleaf. Please retain a copy of the Grant Letter for your records. Please be aware that no payments will be released until receipt of the signed documentation.

The Grant Sponsor for the Building Risk Review Programme and the Protection Uplift Programme will be the Fire Safety Unit which will be responsible for monitoring delivery. I would be grateful if you would address future correspondence on these grants to: [fireprotection@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:fireprotection@homeoffice.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Edwards', is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or stamp.

Luke Edwards  
Fire and Resilience Director, Home Office

**Finance Director approval**

If you agree to the above grant conditions please ask your Finance Director to sign here and return.

“I agree the above grant conditions”

Signed Finance Director.....

Name (printed).....

Date: