

**Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service**  
**Equality Impact Assessment Form**

<b>Title of policy:</b>	<b>Unwanted Fire Signal Reduction Policy</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Community Fire Protection</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>06.05.2015</b>
<p><b>1: What is the aim or purpose of the policy</b></p> <p><i>This should identify “the legitimate aim” of the policy (there may be more than one)</i></p>	
<p>To further reduce the number of Unwanted Fire Signals (UwFS) received and responded to by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service by advice to premises and Formal Action under the Regulatory Reform ( Fire Safety) Order 2005          To ensure the most vulnerable people within our community are not disadvantaged by the further development of this strategy</p>	
<p><b>2: Who will be affected by the policy?</b></p> <p><i>This should identify the persons/organisations who may need to be consulted about the policy or procedure and its outcomes (There may be more than one)</i></p>	
<p>Strategic Management Group          Fire Authority          Business Community          Regional UwFS Group</p>	
<p><b>3. Monitoring</b></p> <p><i>Summarise the findings of any monitoring data you have considered regarding this policy. This could include data which shows whether the policy is having the desired outcomes and also its impact on members of different equality groups.</i></p>	
<p><b>What monitoring data have you considered?</b>          Data compiled from incidents recorded on Vision Boss are collated to provide UWFS Performance figures</p>	<p><b>What did it show?</b>          Stage 1 UWFS Protocol          Reduction of 50.43% to 2674 Incidents in the 12 month period up to 1st November 2013 compared to the same period in the previous year          Stage 2          Reduction of 21.05 % to 2111 Incidents in the 12 month</p>

	<p>period up to 1st November 2014 compared to the same period in the previous year.</p> <p>Current performance has seen a marginal increase in UWFS from 1st November 2014 to 31st March 2015 of 7.35% compared to the same period the previous year. This is a very modest increase and still a reduction of 60.1% compared to the same period before the protocol was introduced.</p>
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<p><b>4: Research</b></p> <p><i>Summarise the findings of any research you have considered regarding this policy. This could include quantitative data and qualitative information; anything you have obtained from other sources e.g. CFOA/CLG guidance, other FRSs, etc</i></p>	
<p><b>What research have you considered?</b></p> <p>2014 Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) Guidance for the Reduction of False Alarms and Unwanted Fire Signals (UwFS)</p>	<p><b>What did it show?</b></p> <p>. MFRA Protocol is generally consistent with the CFOA Guidance in all but 3 areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• . Call filtering process</li> <li>• Investigation of an alarm during an emergency call</li> <li>• Providing Feedback to Fire Alarm Monitoring Organisations (FAMOs)</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Consultation</b></p> <p><i>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</i></p>	
<p><b>What Consultation have you undertaken?</b></p> <p>Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service hosted 2 Consultation events in September 2013 to consult with Stakeholders and Alarm Receiving Centres as to implementation of Stage 2 of the protocol</p>	<p><b>What did it say?</b></p> <p>In summary, affected organisations recognised the reality faced by MFRs and its need to reduce UWFs, concern was raised over sleeping risk at night time and the short time scale afforded to implementation of Stage 2.</p>

## 6. Conclusions

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

### **(a) Age**

Proposed action is against the Responsible Person for premises, even where the premises is involved in the care or accommodation of particular age groups, children's homes or sheltered accommodation for example, this should not have a disproportionate impact. Formal action is aimed at ensuring that premises are safer from the risk of fire and comply with legislation; this would be a positive impact

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

Persons with disability will not face any negative impact, as in (a) Formal action is aimed at ensuring that premises are safer from the risk of fire and comply with legislation; this would be a positive impact

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

No perceived negative or positive impact, Protection Department is in the process of collecting Equality and Diversity Data to assess whether Fire Safety activity is affecting any protected groups disproportionately.

### **(d) Religion or Belief**

No perceived negative or positive impact, Protection Department is in the process of collecting Equality and Diversity Data to assess whether Fire Safety activity is affecting any protected groups disproportionately

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

No perceived negative or positive impact, Protection Department is in the process of collecting Equality and Diversity Data to assess whether Fire Safety activity is affecting any protected groups disproportionately

### **(f) Sexual Orientation**

No perceived negative or positive impact, Protection Department is in the process of collecting Equality and Diversity Data to assess whether Fire Safety activity is affecting any protected groups disproportionately.

### **(g) Socio-economic disadvantage**

It is possible that less economically successful and premises run on a non profit making basis ( hospices for example ) may face costs in improving their automatic

fire alarm systems and fire procedures.

## 7. Decisions

*If the policy will have a negative impact on members of one or more of the protected groups, explain how the policy will change or why it is to continue in the same way. If no changes are proposed, the policy needs to be objectively justified as being an appropriate and necessary means of achieving the legitimate aim set out in 1 above.*

Community Fire Protection will act consistently and proportionally in accordance with the Regulators Code to see that any protected group are supported and assisted as much as possible .

Fire Safety activity is aimed at supporting premises to operate safely and reduce the risk of fire. Advice given to premises will approach reduction of UWFS in this way, only considering enforcement action when other approaches have not been successful.

## 8. Equality Improvement Plan

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

Action Planned	Responsibility of	Completed by

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

The completed form should be emailed to the Diversity Team at the above address for inclusion on the Diversity Action Group Agenda