



DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY Protection Policy

The Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority (DWFRA) is the combined fire and rescue authority for its area, as defined within sections 1 and 2 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. This document is the Protection policy statement for the Authority. It is underpinned by a set of procedures.

The Authority will exercise its regulatory functions in accordance with the principles of better regulation and will comply with all relevant laws. Whilst we are tasked with enforcing the requirements of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, and other related legislation, we will ensure that businesses will have a professional and consistent experience of being regulated.

By delivering our statutory functions we aim to ensure that people are kept safe in case of fire. We believe that deaths and serious injuries caused by fire in regulated premises are preventable if the right measures are taken. To this end the Service and its Fire Safety Inspectors will engage and work with business to make sure that proportionate measures are put in place, in preference to enforcing fire safety standards. We will work with business to continue to contribute towards the economic growth of our communities. We will also use the opportunity provided through statutory consultations to ensure cost effective fire safety compliance and to ensure firefighter safety and business continuity are taken into account.

The Service will work with business to make places safer, but where necessary, we will use our enforcement powers to ensure public safety. We will also make certain that every business is treated in a fair and consistent way. This will eliminate any financial gain or benefit that may arise from individual businesses putting people at risk in case of fire. In the most serious cases we will take immediate and decisive action to secure safety.

We will offer goodwill technical advice and proactively identify initiatives and opportunities to promote the use of sprinklers and other fire engineering solutions to help achieve a high degree of fire safety for the communities of Dorset and Wiltshire.

We will continually develop our staff, to ensure that they can offer the best quality advice and maintain up to date technical knowledge

Why is this policy needed?

The policy will ensure that we comply with our statutory duties as set out in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 with regard to making provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety and responsibilities that are set out in other key legislation such as the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

It will ensure that:

- We are focused on saving lives and reducing risks by contributing towards a safe built environment through the advice and guidance that is provided by our well trained and technically competent staff.
- We operate in a professional fair, consistent and proportionate way in all of our dealings with business and those responsible for the built environment.
- Our procedures reflect guidance provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Chief Fire Officers Association and other relevant professionally accredited organisations or bodies as appropriate.
- Advice and guidance provided to businesses is accurate and proportionate to the risks posed and we will propose options to meet their statutory responsibilities that are practical, cost effective and resilient.
- We develop and deliver a prioritised inspection and re-inspection programme that focuses on areas where there is the greatest risk to members of the public, businesses, our critical infrastructure and our heritage.
- We consider how we can mitigate risks to the built environment through fire engineered solutions.

How we will meet the above requirements?

To achieve our priority of protecting people and the environment from harm we will provide support for local businesses so they can meet their legal fire-safety obligations and add to the economic growth of our communities by;

- Ensuring our staff are trained to national standards and/or industry best practice
- Delivering a proactive, targeted business support inspection/audit programme in high risk buildings
- Providing business support and education aimed at promoting residential and commercial sprinkler systems and strengthening awareness of fire safety responsibilities and compliance
- Developing partnerships with regulatory authorities such as the Housing, Licensing and Health and Safety Executive, to reduce risk and strengthen compliance.
- Establishing and deliver the Primary Authority Scheme
- Educating and working with business to reduce unwanted Fire Signals
- Developing awareness and use of assistive technology and the use of Personal Protection systems to enhance the protection of the most vulnerable in our communities.
- Delivering reactive enforcement of the Fire Safety Order following emergencies, and incidents involving fatalities and injuries including post fire audits, specialist fire investigation and prevention support.
- Ensuring the Community Fire Risk Management Information System (CFRMIS) is effective and efficient.

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- Carrying out prohibition and/or restricting functions where support and education has failed and where dangerous fire safety conditions remain.

Success of the Policy – How is this Policy assured?

To monitor and make sure we continue to meet our requirements and improve where possible we will:

- Monitor progress against our re-inspection programme at monthly team meetings and on a quarterly basis through Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees using this process to drive improvements where they are identified.
- Ensure all staff progress through the appropriate skills pathway and that there continuing development and levels of competence are supported through effective and supportive annual Performance and Development Reviews.
- Review our re-inspection programme as part of our ongoing strategic assessment and when we review our Integrated Risk Management Plan.
- Monitor and report on compliance with the Fire and Rescue Services national Framework for England.
- Once a year review the effectiveness of this policy and publish the results within the Annual Statement of Assurance.

Review Date

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years or will be brought back to Members if requirements change.