

# Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018

[REDACTED]

Governor  
HMP Lancaster Farms  
Stone Row Head  
Lancaster  
LA1 3QZ



Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group  
Policing and Fire Directorate  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor NW Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref:                      Your Ref:

Please reply to:  
[REDACTED] @homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

## **The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Order)**

**Premises: HMP Lancaster Farms, Stone Row Head, Lancaster, LA1 3QZ.**

Following the fire safety inspection of the above premises on the **6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018**, I am writing to confirm my opinion that the identified individuals or groups of people would be at risk in case of fire. You will need to take action to ensure their safety.

In the event that a long-term solution cannot be implemented immediately, you will need to introduce interim measures to reduce the level of risk whilst longer-term measures are being prepared.

Fire safety measures are largely interactive, and fire risks can be controlled in many ways. Therefore, whilst the schedule refers to solutions you could adopt, I am not directing you to choose any one of them. It will be acceptable for you to implement any measures which achieve an appropriate standard of safety from fire.

Successful approaches to assessing and managing risk can be provided by accepted guidance, BS9999: 2017 or fire engineering calculations. Each of these requires the involvement of a person with comprehensive training or experience.

I have included additional information to assist you with planning what action to take:

1. The schedule identifies in each case the 'immediate' (i.e. what has its roots at the establishment) and the likely 'underlying' (i.e. corporate) causes of the failures identified during the inspection.
2. I attach the RAG Risk Rating form for the inspection. The form provides a clear risk-based decision framework and a risk score for individual RAG outcomes.
3. Final risk ratings for the fire safety measures and for key areas of fire safety management are also set out in bar charts at the end of the RAG rating form.

The RAG Risk Rating Form and the risk ratings will be revised during any follow-up inspection. This will be shown as a second bar on the chart, demonstrating the improvement made.

There is no formal right to appeal against this letter but if you would like clarification of its contents or to comment on your experience of the visit, please contact either me or the CPFIG Team Leader on [cpfig@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cpfig@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) .

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

**Crown Premises Fire Inspector  
Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group  
Office of the Senior Fire & Rescue**

CC - [REDACTED]  
CC - [REDACTED]  
CC - [REDACTED]  
CC - [REDACTED]  
CC – [REDACTED]

## Schedule

**Premises: HMP Lancaster Farms, Stone Row Head, Lancaster, LA1 3QZ.**

**File Number: 3812/800/01**

**Sheet: 1 of 3**

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the CFRA letter dated **26<sup>th</sup> March 2018**.

<b>1. MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE.</b>		
<b>Relevant article of the Order</b>	<b>Specific Failure to Comply with the Order</b>	<b>Steps considered necessary to remedy the failure to comply, including an illustrative example of a compliant measure</b>
Articles 4(1)(a) & 8  11	<p>a. Prisoners with a history of fire-setting and those at known risk of self-harm through fire were not located in cells where they were most appropriately safeguarded from fire.</p> <p><b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b></p> <p><i>No suitable measure was in place</i></p> <p><b>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure:</b></p> <p><i>The arrangements for carrying out fire risk assessments do not ensure that there is a systematic process in place for identifying all relevant factors.</i></p>	<p>a. Prisoners at known risk from fire should be located wherever possible in cells fitted with [REDACTED]</p> <p>Locating prisoners at known risk from fire in [REDACTED] without [REDACTED] must be avoided.</p> <p><b>Safety Management Remedy:</b></p> <p><i>The arrangements for carrying out fire risk assessments must ensure that there is a systematic process in place for identifying all relevant factors.</i></p>

**2. PROTECTION OF STAFF AND PRISONERS.**

**WARNING OF FIRE – MEASURES FOR FIRE-FIGHTING – LIGHTING LEVELS FOR SAFE WORKING - RISK OF FIRE SPREAD – SMOKE CONTROL**

<b>Relevant article of the Order</b>	<b>Specific Failure to Comply with the Order</b>	<b>Steps considered necessary to remedy the failure to comply, including an illustrative example of a compliant measure.</b>
<p>Articles 4(1)(e), 7(6), 8 &amp; 13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>WARNING OF FIRE</u></b></p> <p>a. The premises were not equipped with appropriate fire detectors and alarms</p> <p>i. Prisoners were not presented with effective information directed at preventing tampering with fire detectors.</p> <p>ii. The sanctions' system is not used effectively to deter prisoners from tampering with fire detectors.</p> <p><b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b></p> <p><i>No suitable measure was in place</i></p> <p><b>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure</b></p> <p><i>Arrangements for the day-to-day management of fire safety were inadequate.</i></p>	<p>a. The automatic fire protection for cells must ensure that prison staff members are alerted to cell fires sufficiently early to enable them to implement the cell fire response plan [REDACTED]</p> <p>In the absence of fitted automatic fire detection protection for cells, interim protection should be provided through the use of domestic smoke alarms or domestic multi-sensing fire alarms. These should be fixed and orientated according to the manufacturer's instructions, and positioned within the area of predicted smoke travel due to a fire in a given cell. Where domestic type fire detectors are installed [REDACTED] the cell call becomes an integral part of the means of giving warning in the event of a fire. Prisoners must be instructed to use the cell call in the event of a fire and regular monitoring on response times by staff should be undertaken.</p> <p>i) Prisoners should be presented with effective information directed at preventing tampering with fire detectors.</p> <p>ii) The sanctions system should be used effectively to deter prisoners from tampering with fire detectors.</p> <p><b>Safety Management Remedy:</b></p> <p><i>Arrangements must be put in place to ensure that the action points arising from the fire risk assessment are acted upon</i></p>
<p>Articles 4(1)(c), 7(6), 8 &amp; 14</p> <p>9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>LIGHTING LEVELS FOR SAFE WORKING</u></b></p> <p>c. [REDACTED]</p> <p><b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b></p> <p><i>The action plan did not set out a timescale for implementing corrective measures which was appropriate to the seriousness of the risk.</i></p> <p><b>Likely Underlying Safety Management Failure</b></p> <p><i>Inadequate arrangements for assessing contractor performance on the ground</i></p>	<p>c. [REDACTED]</p> <p><b>Safety Management Remedy:</b></p> <p><i>There are inadequate arrangements to ensure that the action points arising from the fire risk assessment are acted upon</i></p>

<p>Articles 4(1)(a)(b)(c), 7(6), 8 &amp; 14</p> <p>5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SMOKE CONTROL</u></b></p> <p>e. In the event of a cell fire, the existing smoke control arrangements for [REDACTED] were inadequate to prevent smoke from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. [REDACTED]; and</li> <li>ii. [REDACTED]</li> </ol> <p><b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b></p> <p><i>Corrective works are under way, but not completed</i></p>	<p>e. An effective mechanical smoke control system, based on engineering calculations and commissioned by a competent contractor, is required for areas of [REDACTED] to ensure that they remain tenable.</p> <p>Effective arrangements are required to ensure that lock-back doors are released where this is significant for the effective performance of mechanical smoke control systems. In the case of a cell fire, immediate priority should always be given to dealing with the fire and the occupant in the affected cell.</p> <p><b>Safety Management Remedy:</b></p> <p><i>Arrangements must be put in place to ensure that the action points arising from the fire risk assessment are acted upon.</i></p>
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4. EFFECTIVENESS OF STAFF ACTIONS TO TAKE IN THE EVENT OF FIRE.		
FIRE TRAINING – EVACUATION		
<b>Relevant article of the Order</b>	<b>Specific Failure to Comply with the Order</b>	<b>Steps considered necessary to remedy the failure to comply, including an illustrative example of a compliant measure</b>
<p>Articles 4(1)(f), 7(6), 8, 13, 15 &amp; 21</p> <p>5</p>	<p>b. [REDACTED]</p> <p><b>Immediate Cause of Failure:</b></p> <p><i>Corrective works are under way, but not completed</i></p>	<p>b. [REDACTED]</p>

Where appropriate, a plan may form part of this Schedule to illustrate the steps which, in the opinion of the Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group, need to be taken in order to meet the requirements of the Order.

**Note:** Notwithstanding any consultation with other enforcing authorities undertaken by the Crown Premises Fire Inspection Group, before you make any alterations to the workplace which constitutes building works you must apply to your local building control body (the local authority or an approved inspector) for any necessary approvals and to any other body which has a statutory interest in the workplace if their permission is required for those alterations to be made.