

HMFSI Arrangements for Firefighting in High Rise Buildings - Action Plan Progress
 Action Plan Owner: DACO Iain Macleod, Prevention and Protection

Updated	Next Update	Committee Update (SDC)
Oct-24	Feb-25	Nov-24

HMFSI Recommendation	Action Ref	Action Description	Action Owner	Due Date	Revised Due Date	Status	Progress Update Commentary	% Complete	Completion Date	BRAG	Evidence
We are mindful that a general document conversion programme is in progress and that rewrite of the high rise Standard Operating Procedure by the Service is well advanced. The Standard Operating Procedure rewrite should consider the issues we mention in this report to improve its usability for the end users.	6	Operations to capture recommendations in the final version of the High Rise Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).	AC Duffy	Dec-23	Mar-24 to Sep-24 to Jun-25	In Progress	24 June 2024: The published High-Rise Standard Operating Procedure continues to be amended following the introduction of new pieces of equipment and the introduction of an Evacuation Standard Operating Procedure. Fire Escape Hoods are now available on all appliances with a Breathing Apparatus capability and the deployment of Smoke Curtains have been captured in draft High-Rise and Firefighting in Buildings Standard Operating Procedures. Fire Ground digital radios are currently being rolled out across the country. Thermal Imaging Cameras are now available in every Community Fire Station. The Document Conversion Project High-Rise Operating Procedure and supporting information, when it is available to all personnel, will capture these improvements. Information Governance will provide document upload training to Operations Function personnel mid-late May 2024, which will enable the packages within the Document Conversion Project to be published on Hub thereafter. This action is red due to the slip in the original timescale. (Proposed revised due date from March 2024 to September 2024) Training has now been delivered, although delay has had an impact on publication dates. Phase 3 go live, publication, in June 2025. However, it should be noted that the existing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is live and includes updated information. 28 October 2024: The previous update accurately reflected the Operations Position at the time as the Document Conversion Project (DCP) was expected to launch on schedule. However, following significant delays to the Document Conversion Project (DCP), it has become apparent that the High Rise Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which was scheduled to be published in Phase 3 of the Document Conversion Project (DCP) will, as a result of slippage, be delayed until June 2025. In the meantime, the decision has been made to carry out a review of the High Rise Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and republish with updates including some of the recommendations from the HMFSI Firefighting in High Rise Buildings review. Recommendations which are not included at this time will then be included in the finalised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) when it is published as part of Phase 3 of the Document Conversion Project (DCP). This action remains red due to slip in original timescale as a result of project interdependencies and will continue to be progressed to completion by the proposed revised due date of Jun-25. (Proposed revised due date from September 2024 to June 2025)	70%		Red	
We recommend that the SFRS firms up its policies and internal guidance on fire safety standards in high rise domestic buildings with a view to influencing a standard risk-based approach in the provision of: a. fire warning systems, and b. SFRS controlled evacuation systems. This should take into account the suitability of these systems and potential problems and interactions.	1	Prevention and Protection and Operations to review Policy and Guidance to include Fire Warning and Emergency Evacuation Systems.	AC McGoldrick/AC Getty	Jul-23	Mar-24	Complete	21 February 2024: Prevention and Protection have been in discussion with Scottish Government and Local Senior Officers around the consistent approach to fire warning systems in High Rise Domestic Buildings (HRDBs). The Operational Assurance Visit procedure is currently being redrafted to reflect this alongside the guidance for Evacuation Alert Systems, Premise Information Boxes and Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans. We are also in discussion with Operations Delivery around revision requirements of the High Rise Standard Operating Procedure. Due to resourcing challenges, conflicting priority work and changes in structures, it is requested this action is further extended until the end of March 24 taking it past the 6 month original due date. There is a managed workstream ongoing to consider and revise existing guidance and policy for this action which has required internal and external engagement though is now progressing well. Operations continue to stand ready to support any subsequent actions i.e. should Prevention & Protection determine a change to policy is required following their scheduled meetings. Operations will support by ensuring any required changes are reflected within operational documentation. Timeline if required would be 10-12 weeks following the identification of Policy changes; 2 weeks re-write, 4 weeks consultation, up to 2 weeks update post consultation, 4 weeks familiarisation period- Go-Live. This action has moved from amber to red due to the second slip in timescale. (Proposed revised due date from December 2023 to March 2024) 22 May 2024: Progress on all tasks identified have been reviewed, progressed and updated. Work has been completed against tasks and this has been recorded in the evidence column as of 27.03.2024. Task 1: Update Operational Assurance Visits (OAV) procedure Task 2: Ensure information captured on the High Rise Domestic Checklist in relation to Premises Information Boxes is conveyed to Department Heads. Task 3: Alter letter templates to reflect change in OAV procedural document. This action has moved from red to blue and is now complete.	100%	Mar-24	Blue	Section 7 in the OAV procedure document references Emergency Alert Systems (EAS) and provides a link to LCMS training module which contains the NFCC guidance document. Question H3a within the High Rise Domestic Building Checklist asks if a system is present. This will allow SFRS to assess the number of systems fitted within each area and identify any retrospective installations. A guidance document is available via LCMS (NFCC guidance document). Following consultation with FE, there have been limited plans for new buildings indicating an EAS being installed. This task was primarily to gather information relating to the extent that these systems may be present in Scotland. Moving forward, any EAS will be identified during HRDB checks carried out by operational crews. National Training Centre (NTC) have received a EAS system from a company called 'Advanced' for training purposes. There has been a delay in using/installing the system due to issues relating to advertising and promoting the company. The system has not yet been installed but operates through Wi-Fi so should not be too complex once approval has been given. The system will be installed into one of the buildings at NTC. A second system has been offered to NTC which is a mobile system. This can be transported to various locations for training staff at local training centres to facilitate training scenarios. Following discussions with Scottish Government Building Standards, an agreement and policy setting of not supporting common alarm systems in high rise buildings has been established other than for the actuation of firefighting systems. This supports the stay put policy adopted across Scotland and avoids confusion for residents. This can be reconsidered on an individual basis such as requirements to support high risk issues relating to cladding.
We think that it would improve safety if the external indicator plate used on domestic high rise buildings was adopted as a standard in Scotland and a mandatory requirement to install and maintain these plates was imposed on building owners. We recommend that, if the SFRS shares our view, then the SFRS should work with Scottish Ministers to influence such a change to introduce a statutory duty (perhaps achievable by amending the Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006). (This recommendation is made, albeit it is somewhat indirect, to the SFRS given that the statutory power of the HMFSI facilitates the making of recommendations only to the SFRS).	2	Prevention and Protection to gather data and carry out a review of current external indicator plates and produce a report to gauge support for Regulatory change.	AC Dourley	Apr-23	Jul-23	Complete	17 May 2023: Information regarding the total number of compliant and fitted High Rise Indicator Plates (HRIPs) has been passed to Scottish Government. We have provided further context to Scottish Government as to why there are still buildings with no plate fitted. The reasons include financial barriers; being considered unsightly; and there being no legal requirement. As a result, SFRS have formally requested regulatory change and are awaiting an update from the Fire and Rescue Unit. This action has been marked as amber due to some slip in timescales. A revised due date from April 23 to July 23 has been proposed. 16 August 2023: The Fire and Rescue Unit is now in receipt of the SFRS request for regulatory change and the SFRS action can be closed. This action has been marked green and is now complete.	100%	Jul-23		
The SFRS should review its expectation regarding the recording and use of Operational Intelligence for high rise buildings and take steps to implement a standard approach.	3	Operations to review Operational Intelligence in relation to High Rise premises and provide a consistent standard Service-wide approach and template.	AC Duffy	Jul-23	May-23	Complete	17 May 2023: The Operational Intelligence Team have been working with the Prevention & Protection Enforcement Team who have developed and updated the Operational Assurance Visit that will incorporate the High Rise Guidance Plate Template which will be recorded on the Operational Intelligence System. Operational Assurance Visit information can be captured on the Operational Intelligence system along with the High Rise Guidance Plate information. The revised General Information Note, once it is live, will go to the Operational Intelligence Liaison Group for awareness, followed up by a Service-wide communication to ensure the instructions are conformed to. 16 August 2023: Template form and guidance went live on 10 May 2023 and a nationwide staff Awareness Briefing (see link in evidence) was released to inform personnel. This action has been marked green and is now complete.	100%			ABQAVProcedureHRDBGuidancePlatesV1.0(firescotland.gov.uk)

<p>The SFRS should develop its own policy on the suitability of 'Premises Information Boxes' for high rise domestic blocks so that a standard approach can be taken where housing providers may propose to introduce these boxes for their buildings.</p>	4	<p>Prevention and Protection to produce a Policy and supporting guidance for Premises Information Boxes.</p>	AC Getty	Jul-23	Mar-24	Complete	<p>21 February 2024: The SFRS have provided a proposed standard template to the Scottish Government around the High Rise Identification Plate for their consideration and inclusion in the Building Standards Technical Handbook. Premises Information Box and Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans are considered in the revised Operational Assurance Visit procedural document as updated in Action 1. This will reference the standard guidance issued by the Fire Industry Association and National Fire Chiefs Council, with further detail on guidance for SFRS crews on what they are and what they should consider when coming across them. It is requested in line with the above action, that this is extended until end of March 24. This action has moved from amber to red due to the second slip in timescale. [Proposed revised due date from December 2023 to March 2024]</p> <p>22 May 2024: Progress on all tasks identified have been reviewed, progressed and updated. Work completed against tasks have been recorded in the evidence column as of 27.03.2024:</p> <p>Task 1: Update Operational Assurance Visits procedure</p> <p>Task 2: Ensure information captured on the High Rise Domestic Checklist in relation to Premises Information Boxes is conveyed to Department Heads.</p> <p>Task 3: Alter letter templates to reflect change in operational Assurance Visits procedural document. This action has moved from red to blue and is now complete.</p>	100%	Mar-24	Blue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4.3 (E) with the OAV procedure makes reference to PIBs under "further areas for consideration" as this is not covered under legislation. The presence of PIB information is captured on the checklist however this specifically sits in section "For Internal Fire service use only" The information relating to PIBs on the checklist has now been moved to the main body of the checklist covered by "non-mandatory items" (questions H31, H31a & H31b). New corresponding standard terms have been added for inclusion in any outcome letters for duty holders. The standard term directs Duty holders to the NFCC guidance note for PIBs, recommending they are provided and what should be provided within them. All SFRS advice on PIB's will follow NFCC guidance Templates and procedures have been updated and are going through internal QA prior to issue. <p>In addition to the above, any information relating to PIBs will be shared with OI and where appropriate, recorded on mobile information systems to ensure all attending crews are aware.</p>
<p>The SFRS should reconsider the introduction of a risk-based Operational Assurance Visit inspection frequency, in line with what exists for fire safety audits and Operational Intelligence inspections generally, where appropriate.</p>	5	<p>Operational Assurance (OA) to review the current Policy for OA High Rise Visits and consider a risk based approach.</p>	AC Duffy	Dec-23	Mar-24	Complete	<p>21 February 2024: The pilot is underway at McDonald Road Community Fire Station and the evaluation report is due for drafting in March 2024.</p> <p>This action remains amber due to slip in original timescale but is on target by completion by the revised due date of March 2024.</p> <p>22 May 2024: A risk based approach to Operational Assurance Visits in High Rise buildings has been considered with a pilot due to be undertaken in City of Edinburgh. Following a number of recent High Rise incidents demonstrating hidden fire spread, the fire safety issues arising from Operational Assurance Visit inspections and further information from local authorities around cladding and remediation issues, the introduction of single building assessments by Scottish Government that is expected to require operational intelligence gathering, and the forthcoming Grenfell Phase 2 Report being published, this has been put on hold and will be reconsidered once the above impact can be determined. This will be picked up through the Prevention, Protection and Preparedness review and Strategic Service Review Programme identifying capacity and resource improvements moving forward.</p> <p>This action has been marked as blue and is now complete.</p>	100%	Mar-24	Blue	
<p>The SFRS should reflect on the strong views among its firefighting staff and consider whether there is scope to refine the set down procedures for tackling fires contained in the SFRS high rise Standard Operating Procedure, taking into account the different levels of risk offered by features such as modern lift protection, smoke hood availability, automatic suppression systems, and information from camera and attending staff.</p>	7	<p>Operations to consider a bottom up approach and gauge feedback from staff in terms of current and proposed methods for operations at High Rise incidents.</p>	AC Duffy	Dec-23	Aug-23	Complete	<p>17 May 2023: During the Standard Operating Procedure development, part of the process involved a consultation process with frontline staff. Outcomes of the consultation process have been considered and will be included where deemed appropriate. A due date of December 2023 has been provided for this action.</p> <p>16 August 2023: As part of the Document Conversion Project, amendments to the High Rise Operating Procedure have been made in respect of Evacuation and Fire Escape Hoods, which involved robust consultation(s) and trials with all stakeholders. This action has been marked green and is now complete.</p>	100%			
<p>The SFRS should review its arrangements for transporting equipment for high rise firefighting with a view to introducing an arrangement which is physically less demanding than the existing arrangements.</p>	8	<p>Operations to review arrangements across Scotland and produce suitable options for transporting equipment and standardising this approach throughout Scotland.</p>	AC Duffy	Dec-23		Complete	<p>16 August 2023: SFRS Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) are currently coordinating trials of alternative equipment, methodologies and products for transportation of equipment. The trial and review of alternatives as per the action will be completed by the target due date of December 2023. However it should be noted that service wide implementation would then transfer to business as usual and extend beyond this date based on the specific outcomes. This action has been marked green and is on track for completion by the target due date.</p> <p>15 November 2023: Operations have carried out this review and SFRS Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) are currently out to tender for new heavy weight appliance (18T) and simultaneously trailing high rise bags that are in use throughout a number of European fire and rescue services. Trailing stations are Inverness, Crewe Toll and Clyde mill. This action to review arrangements is therefore complete.</p>	100%			

