

Emergency Services News Briefing

March 2022



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In this edition of our news briefing, we draw attention to some of the key developments and publications. We also highlight our latest report on the lessons learnt following the coronavirus pandemic.

Police

A joint thematic inspection of the criminal justice journey for individuals with mental health needs and disorders

Between April and May 2021, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation – supported by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate, Care Quality Commission, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons – carried out a joint thematic inspection. This inspection followed the progress of individuals with mental health needs and disorders through the criminal justice system, from first contact with the police to release from prison. The inspection found poor support for people with mental health issues as they progress through the criminal justice system in England and Wales .

[Read more](#)

Questions for committee's consideration

Are you aware of the issues identified in this report and the steps your organisation is taking to address them?

Police officer uplift

The government's drive to protect the public by recruiting 20,000 additional police officers enters a new phase with the launch of a new advertising campaign. More than 11,000 people have already joined the police as part of the recruitment drive, helping to cut crime by 14 per cent (excluding fraud and computer misuse). The 11,053 additional officers to date have enabled police forces to set up new units tackling crime and protecting vulnerable people .

[Read more](#)

Questions for committee's consideration

Are you assured around where the additional resource is being directed and whether this is in line with police and crime plan priorities?



Strategic Review of Policing

The Police Foundation has published its Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales, setting out a long-term strategic vision for a modern police service capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century. The review also sets out 56 recommendations which includes recommendations on radical reform to police culture, skills and training, and organisational structure.

Among the recommendations in the report are calls for a 'licence to practice' for police officers, administered by the College of Policing, the professional standards body. The licence should be renewed every five years, subject to an officer demonstrating professional development through achieving relevant qualifications, passing an interview, or presenting a portfolio of activities and achievements.

[Read more](#)

Policing inspection programme and framework

HMICFRS launched a consultation which welcomed the views on its proposed policing inspection programme for the next three years. From April 2022, the inspection programme will take a multi-year approach rather than an annual one, setting out how HMICFRS will work and the areas that will be inspected in the next three years. However, HMICFRS intend to review the programme each year in light of new and emerging priorities for policing, as well as how its ability to inspect and promote improvement is affected by government funding. The consultation sought views on whether HMICFRS cover the right themes and areas of policing .

The consultation closed on 10 March 2022 and the final document, which will be appropriately revised to reflect the results of consultation, will be made available on HMICFRS's website

[Read more](#)

Questions for committee's consideration

Is your Audit Committee sighted on the outcomes of the HMICFRS inspection programme, and do you receive regular updates on progress against recommendations?

Police grants in England and Wales

The Home Office has published its final allocations of grants to police and crime commissioners in England and Wales for 2022 to 2023. The allocations of the Police Main Grant and DCLG Formula Funding that were provided to local policing bodies in 2021/22 'have been increased in line with the total overall increase of these grant streams in 2022/23 .'

[Read more](#)

Questions for committee's consideration

Are you aware of how your grant allocation affects your MTFP and are you assured of steps being taken to address any gaps in funding?

Value for money profiles

The latest value for money (VfM) profiles are available, to view comparative data on a number of policing activities. Available on the HMICFRS website, the latest VfM profiles enable individuals to explore the performance and spending of police forces .

[Read more](#)

Questions for committee's consideration

Has your Force reviewed this analysis to determine any outlying areas and are these being investigated?



Police and Fire

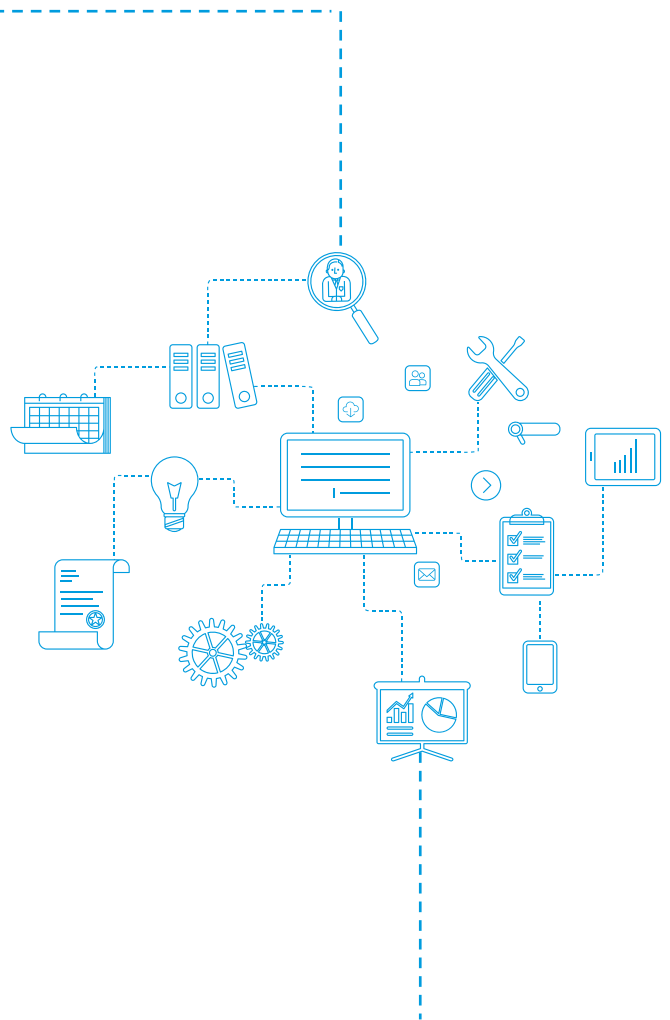
RSM and CIPFA Public Procurement Webinar

From 1 January 2022, public contracting authorities in the UK have had to change the way they estimate the contract value for the purposes of determining whether it exceeds the new procurement thresholds. Procurement teams must now remember to take account of the relevant VAT rate applicable to the contract before publishing Find a Tender Service or Contracts Finder Notices.

RSM held a webinar on this new development on 2 March 2022. The first session of the RSM/CIPFA's Public Procurement Webinar was a huge success with 86 registered attendees.

The next Public Procurement Webinar Series session will be taking place on Wednesday 30 March 2022. (12.30pm – 13.15pm) The topic is 'Are your Contract Standing Orders/ Procedure Rules up to date?'. Contract Standing Orders / Procedure Rules are critical to the proper procurement governance of contracting authorities and must reflect current legislation and best practice. Having an incorrect or out of date internal guidance can prevent delivery of value for money and result in legal action and disciplinary investigations. This webinar will address common areas which need updating and bring organisations up to speed with recent developments.

These monthly webinars cover topical and current issues offering expert advice on EU and UK public sector procurement and contract management. The webinars will be of interest to public sector procurement, commissioners, finance, solicitors, project managers, auditors and contract managers involved in public procurement and contract management.



To register for the webinar, please [visit the RSM website](#).

If you have any questions relating to the webinar please do not hesitate to contact us. Please also feel free to forward this invitation to your colleagues.

Strengthening resilience: lessons learnt from the impacts of the pandemic

As a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic, organisations have had to re-think, act quickly, and in many respects change how they have been operating. The pandemic has seen a rise in fraud, cyber risk, supply chain disruption and economic uncertainty, coupled with the adoption of homeworking arrangements and the relaxation of certain controls.

Throughout the pandemic, RSM's internal audit teams have continued to undertake reviews in a remote setting. Just like many organisations across the globe, we have had to navigate our way through the effects of the pandemic and adapt to the new ways of working while continuing to provide quality services for our clients. Some audit plans were paused during the early stages of the pandemic, but many organisations were keen to restart their internal audit work given the importance of seeking assurance over the controls in place, particularly where new processes had been established at pace. Our audit work has focused on our clients' responses to the pandemic and the lessons that have been learnt; with a focus on business continuity, agile and remote working, return to work and mental health.

As part of our research, we have analysed pandemic related management actions that were agreed with our clients as part of internal audit reviews during the latter part of 2019/20 and 2020/21. Overall, we have analysed 289 high, medium and low priority management actions agreed across 70 different reviews with a broad range of clients. Management actions were agreed with 63 organisations across the public and third sectors, and corporate organisations including several financial services businesses.

Access our report on [the RSM website](#).



Questions for committee's consideration

Has your organisation considered the key questions contained within the full report?

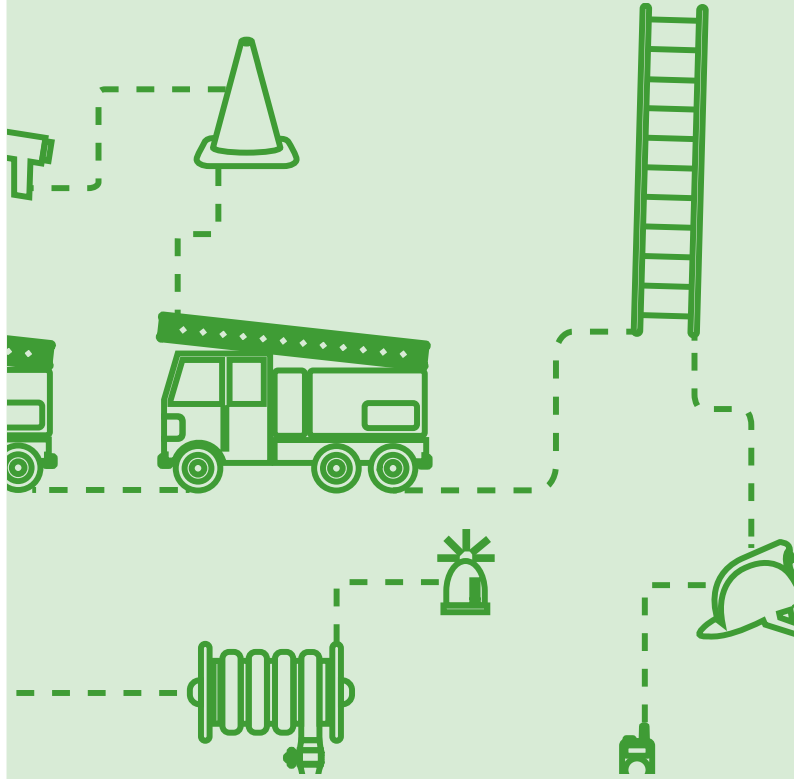
Fire

Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents

The Home Office has published statistics on non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services across England for the financial year 2020 to 2021 (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021). Key statistics include:

- there were 151,044 non-fire incidents and 2,746 fatalities in non-fire incidents (a decrease of 12 per cent and an increase of five per cent respectively compared to the previous year);
- the most common categories of non-fire incidents attended were affecting entry/exit, road traffic collisions and assisting other agencies;
- fire and rescue services (FRSs) attended 22,524 road traffic collisions, this is a decrease of 28 per cent from last year; and
- FRSs attended 13,843 medical incidents, a decrease of 25 per cent compared with the previous year (18,347) and a decrease of 56 per cent compared with the financial year 2015 to 2016 (31,347).

[Read more](#)



Questions for committee's consideration

How does your fire service benchmark / compare against these statistics?

Are you satisfied with the data being reported through your organisation and actions plans in place to improve performance?

Does your organisation understand how attendance at non-fire incidents impacts on the skills and training of your teams?

Is training aligned to the different demands being placed on the service?



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