Revised IRMP Guidance Note 4: A Risk Based Approach to Managing a Fire Safety Inspection Programme

Summary

CLG has recently revised IRMP Guidance Note 4 which offers information to FRAs on the development and implementation of a risk based approach to the management of a fire safety inspection programme. The revision takes account of both the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the updated ‘Other Building Fire Frequencies’ data which underpins the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) Toolkit. This revised Guidance Note replaces the version that was issued by ODPM in Fire Service Circular 2/2004.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This guidance replaces IRMP Guidance Note 4, issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) under cover of Fire Service Circular 2/2004.

1.2 It is intended to offer Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) a framework in which to develop, implement and manage a risk-based inspection programme which takes account of both the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the FSO) and CLG’s update of the ‘Other Building Fire Frequencies’ data which underpins the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) Toolkit.

1.3 Under the National Framework 2008-11, FRAs are required to have a management strategy and a risk-based inspection programme to enforce the provisions of the FSO and this must form part of each FRAs Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

1.4 IRMPs are locally determined, publicly available documents which set out, on the basis of a local understanding of needs, each FRA’s plan to tackle efficiently and effectively both the existing and potential risks to its communities. IRMP enables an FRA to evaluate where risk is greatest and to tailor the allocation of its prevention, protection and response resources according to local circumstances.

1.5 In revising this guidance, we have consulted with both the CFOA–led Enforcement Working Group, chaired by DCFO Neil Gibbins, and with the members of the IRMP Steering Group. We appreciate the constructive contributions that have been made.

1.6 FRAs will want to be aware that this revised Guidance Note links closely to, and where appropriate, cross references CFOA’s Fire Safety Guidance Notes and Audit Form which was issued in August 2008. This form is intended to help fire safety officers across the FRS to assess the extent of compliance with the FSO within particular buildings and to decide the need for and level of enforcement action on a consistent basis.

1.7 The guidance is published at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/developingfuture/integratedriskmanagement/guidancenote/

2.0 Contacts

2.1 For more information on FSEC contact Jim Smith at the Fire Experimental Unit: jim.smith@communities.gsi.gov.uk, telephone: 01608 650004 or, for enforcement of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, contact John Johnstone – John.Johnstone@communities.gsi.gov.uk, telephone 0207 944 4708.

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