



**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

---

*Report to:*  
**Falkirk Scrutiny Committee**

***SUBJECT: Fire Safety Enforcement Audit Process & Auditing of Licensed Premises***

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report has been produced following a specific inquiry from members of the Falkirk Scrutiny Committee in relation to the inspection of licensed premises. This report aims to add some clarity around the Fire Safety Enforcement methodology and reasoning for the non-routine auditing of 'licensed' premises.

**2. Fire Safety Enforcement Audit Process**

- 2.1 The overall aim of the Fire Safety Enforcement Auditing process is to verify compliance with fire safety legislation within relevant premises and to take appropriate and balanced enforcement action where necessary. As a result this may reduce the risk and impact of fire on the community, safeguard our fire-fighters, heritage and environment, reduce the loss of life, injuries, commercial, economic and social costs. Consequently our statutory duty to enforce fire safety law and promote fire safety will be based on risk and providing our community with value for money.

2.2 In determining the risk rating of a premises several factors are taken into account including;

- The level of compliance with Part 3 of The Fire(Scotland) Act;
- The level of fire safety management within the premise;
- The occupancy type of the premise i.e. familiar with the building, level of alertness, mobility etc,
- The premise type i.e. Care Home, Hospital, Hotel etc.

2.3 On completion of an audit a determination is made regarding the risk of fire occurring, the risk to individuals in the event of fire and the potential impact on the community. This information, when considered in addition to the premise type, helps determine the future auditing of the premises.

2.4 Those premises with the highest risk to life are audited on the most frequent basis and are the main focus for Fire Safety Enforcement activities.

2.5 The audit strategy within the Falkirk and West Lothian LSO area follows the principles set out within 'The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Fire Safety Enforcement Framework 2013-2016', which states that the following premises types be audited on an annual basis;

- All Care Home, School Care Accommodation and Secure Accommodation Services registered with the Care Inspectorate;
- All NHS Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Hospices registered with Healthcare Improvement Scotland;
- All Houses in Multiple Occupation in accordance with the HMO licensing cycle of the Local Authority;
- All Premises within Falkirk previously assessed as presenting a "very high" or "high" risk following audit in the previous year.

- 2.6 All other premises will be audited in response to complaints, following fire related incidents or as part of a thematic or sample auditing programme.
- 2.7 This approach of the deployment of Fire Safety Enforcement resources ensures that the focus is firmly on those most at risk and contributes towards the 'best value' use of resources

### **3 Licensed Premises**

- 3.1 For the following reasons 'Licensed' premises are not routinely audited by Fire Safety Enforcement Officers;
- Licensed Premises do not present a significant risk to life due to the occupancy type of the premises and the absence of a high prevalence individuals with mobility issues;
  - Licensed Premises do not present a 'sleeping' risk;
  - Licensed premises do not present a significant hazard in terms of contents or processes;
  - Licensed premises are required to meet a standard of fire safety measures in order to satisfy the requirements of the licence;
  - Statistical data does not support the need to audit 'licensed' premises due to the low number of incidents occurring and the impact of such an incident.
- 3.2 As a result of the above reasons the majority of 'Licensed' premises achieve a risk rating of 'medium' or 'low'.
- 3.3 Within the Falkirk area there are currently 307 'licensed' premises on the SFRS database.

3.4 As of 1 April 2013, 11 of these premises were classed as 'high' risk and will be subject to auditing by a Fire Safety Enforcement Officer by 31 March 2014.

3.5 Out-with these 11 premises, any other 'Licensed' Premises would only be subject to an audit in response to complaints, following fire related incidents or as part of a thematic or sample auditing programme. In this regard a total of 38 further premises have been subject to audit so far this year.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 That the Falkirk Scrutiny Committee notes or otherwise the contents of this report

**Gary Laing**  
**Local Senior Officer**  
**Falkirk and West Lothian**

**20<sup>th</sup> February 2014**