

## **GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL**

**Date:** 20th September 2022

**Subject:** HMICFRS MTA Cause for Concern Removal

**Report of:** DCFO Ben Norman

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This paper provides notification of the removal of the HMICFRS Cause for Concern removal which was issued following the 2021 Inspection of GMFRS.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Members of the Panel are asked to:

- Note the information contained in this report and the supporting appendix
- Note the next steps

### **CONTACT OFFICERS:**

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# Appendix 1 – Letter Confirming Removal of Cause for Concern

## BACKGROUND PAPERS:

[HMICFRS Tranche 1 Inspections](#)

[HMICFRS Annual State of Fire 2021 report](#)

[GMFRS Inspection Report](#)

<b>TRACKING/PROCESS</b>		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
<b>EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN</b>		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		No
TfGMC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
N/A	N/A	

## INTRODUCTION

1. Following the HMICFRS inspection of GMFRS in April and May 2021 a Cause for Concern letter stating:
  - Greater Manchester FRS should have its own marauding terrorist attack (MTA) response that is both resilient, timely and cost effective.
  - The service should ensure it is properly prepared as part of a multi-agency response to terrorist incidents. This includes the provision of a timely response to ensure public safety. Response procedures must be understood by all staff and properly exercised and tested. This should not come at the cost of wider fire cover for the public.

Detailing the following recommendation:

- By the end of October 2021, the service should have a sustainable plan to maintain its response to MTA incidents. This should include meaningful training and exercising for all staff who would be expected to respond to a MTA incident.
2. On 1st November 2021, GMFRS provided HMICFRS with a comprehensive business case detailing how the service intended to improve the capacity and capability of its response to terrorist incidents, as well as how much it would cost. It detailed how all staff in the service would be trained, equipped and supported to carry out agreed MTA activity in accordance with the MTA joint operating principles.
  3. In April 2022, the service the service signed a collective agreement with the Fire Brigades Union, which has contractual effect by way of incorporation into the contracts of employment of firefighters, for the provision of a specialist MTA response capability’.
  4. HMICFRS were pleased to see the service had reviewed its policy and standard operating procedures for MTA capability and that it had made sure that all staff were aware of them. Also, that it had developed a training programme that will be introduced to all members of staff. This training programme includes a number of exercises that will be carried out by both the police and ambulance services.
  5. GMFRS and HMICFRS have been in regular contact since the issuing of the cause of concern and on 15th May 2022, HMICFRS revisited the service and provided us with their initial findings.

## **CURRENT POSITION**

6. On 29th July 2022, GMFRS were sent a final draft of a letter HMICFRS will be publishing on 2nd September 2022, which details the removal of the Cause for Concern.
7. It states that HMICFRS are satisfied that the service has made progress in relation to the causes of concern we identified. We now consider the cause of concern to be closed.
8. As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 (updated figures are to be published shortly), 201 firefighters and officers have completed the 3 Day MTA training. The vast majority of these are based around the city centre. 965 personnel still require training.
9. All Manchester Area stations have received their MTA training and there has been a joint emergency services exercise to test and validate this training.

## **NEXT STEPS**

10. The 3-day MTA training will continue throughout this training year with the intention of 100% completion by April 2022 (this does not take into account any slippage which may be the result of industrial action).
11. All MTA training will be tested and validated with multi-agency Area exercises.

## **Appendix 1 – Letter Confirming Removal of Cause for Concern**

**Link:**

**[Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service: Cause of concern closure letter - HMICFRS \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/greater-manchester-fire-and-rescue-service-cause-of-concern-closure-letter/)**