



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

The professional voice of the
UK Fire & Rescue Service

National Fire Chiefs Council
West Midlands Fire Service
99 Vauxhall Road
Birmingham
B7 4HW

Telephone +44 (0)121 380 7311
Email info@nationalfirechiefs.org.uk

Our Ref: CB/KLD
Date: 17TH June 2021

To: All Chief Fire Officers

Copies to: All Fire Investigation Leads

Dear Chief

**FIRE INVESTIGATION –
IMPLEMENTATION OF STREAMLINED FORENSIC REPORTING FOR DELIBERATE FIRES**

I am writing in my role as NFCC Lead for Fire Investigation to ask for your support in implementing a recommended change to Fire Investigation reporting to the Police in relation to deliberate fires.

This change will only apply to Tier 2 investigators, ie those carried out by fire investigators, and there will be no impact on Tier 1 investigators carried out by crews in order to complete the Incident Recording System.

The new arrangements, which have been successfully trialled across the East Midlands Region for over a year, will mean that a shorter report can be submitted in the first instance than is currently required when requested. It will need to be submitted for every deliberate fire investigated by a fire investigator, but that is a requirement of ISO 17020 in any case and without this change a longer report would be required every time.

There are some clear efficiency savings in this approach long term and these efficiencies will be quantified through the Forensic Capability Network, using your own data on volume of reports, and fed back to you after 12 months for your own records and consideration.

There are also likely to be benefits in formally recording all of this type of fire with the Police, which doesn't routinely occur everywhere at present, to ensure the Police have a more formal record of the deliberate fires in your area, and the information which could lead to convictions.

This has been debated at the NFCC Fire Investigation Strategic Steering Group, attended by your regional FI representatives, and the Group approved the recommendations to implement the process.

Please find below the link to the relevant documentation:

[New Streamlined Forensic Reporting Guidance Launched | Forensic Capability Network \(fcn.police.uk\)](#)

If you agree to implement this in your FRS then I would appreciate it if arrangements were in place to implement it before January 2022.

I would encourage your Fire Investigation Lead to discuss this with your local Police contact, and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Blacksell', written in a cursive style.

Chris Blacksell
NFCC Fire Investigation Strategic Steering Group Lead