



COVID-19 Strategic Intentions

June 2020

Introduction

The following updated Strategic Intentions reflect the changing circumstances affecting the UK in relation to COVID19 and are provided in order to support the fire and rescue service sector adapt to the phases as set out in the Her Majesty's Government's 3 step Recovery Strategy. The Government phases in relation to its response to the COVID-19 pandemic are:

- Phase 1 – Contain, delay, research and mitigate
- Phase 2 – Smarter controls
- Phase 3 – Reliable treatment

Aligned to a move to Phase 2 of the Recovery Strategy the Government are gradually replacing existing social restrictions with smarter measures that balance its aims as effectively as possible.

The Government are seeking to enact measures that have the largest effect on controlling the epidemic but the lowest health, economic and social costs. These will be implemented in a series of steps over the coming weeks and months but options to react to a rise in transmissions will be maintained, including the re-imposition of social restrictions if required.

Over time, the Government will review the effectiveness of these measures and introduce more reactive or localised measures through widespread, accurate monitoring of the disease.

The Government is using the COVID-19 Alert system to identify the rate of transmission of the virus and inform the required local or national measures to control the virus.

To support the COVID-19 Alert system, the Government is establishing a Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) to monitor infection rates across England. The JBC provide advice to Ministers and the Chief Medical Officer on the current Alert level, and, in turn, inform the development of local outbreak plans to mitigate localised peaks of the virus. At the time of writing, it is not clear whether the Devolved Governments have signed up to use the JBC.

As a result of the Government's move into Phase 2, the National Fire Chiefs Council has reviewed and revised its strategic intentions to reflect the move towards recovery and the transition to a new normal, whilst recognising the need to continue to respond to the current outbreak and/or revert to more responsive measures should it be warranted, reflective of any local outbreak plan.

Strategic Intent

To support the gradual recovery and transition to a new normality through the introduction and use of smarter controls that continue to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 enabling a prioritised and safe resumption of activities disrupted by the pandemic, whilst maintaining the ability to respond to further peaks, either locally, regionally or nationally.

Strategic Intentions

- To proactively protect our communities and limit the spread of COVID-19 by the adoption of smarter controls to make social contact less infectious.
- To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff through the implementation of measures aligned to the COVID-19 Secure guidelines.
- To maintain an effective Emergency Response – we will continue to respond to all incidents.
- To maintain Preparedness activity – we will continue prepare, train and exercise against foreseeable risk and seek the safe and prioritised resumption of Preparedness activities disrupted by COVID-19.
- To Protect our communities from fire – we will adopt a risk-based approach to Protection activities, balancing the need to regulate the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and protect staff and the public.
- To prevent the impact of fire and other emergencies on our communities – we will adopt a risk-based approach to home safety (including Safe and Well visits) and wider community safety-based activities, including road and water safety.
- To ensure the sector's response, recovery and transition to a new normal is coordinated and integrated with other agencies, based on shared situational awareness and a joint understanding of risk.
- To ensure the sector is able to support communities and partners during any localised, regional or national outbreaks, requiring targeted measures to control the virus.
- To ensure effective business continuity, procurement and recovery arrangements are established and maintained throughout the sector.
- To ensure lessons learnt from the COVID-19 response are gathered, shared and acted upon, where appropriate, across the sector.
- To support the transition to a new normal.

NFCC Guidance

For further information and updates, please refer to www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/COVID-19

Home Office reporting

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- Data to be provided by 1100 each day to National Resilience Hub for collation and circulation to Home Office.

NFCC COVID 19 advice and support

Should you have specific issues related to any of the areas identified please raise them by e mailing covid19.enquiries@nationalfirechiefs.org.uk

NFCC Governance

NFCC COVID19 Committee Membership

- Phil Garrigan Chair
- Andy Bell Vice Chair and Recovery Lead
- Sarah Gawley Home Office
- Stuart Errington Local Resilience Forum Lead
- Ian Hayton Emergency Services Liaison
- Peter Heath NFCC Operations Committee
- Rick Hylton NFCC Prevention Committee
- Ian Leigh NFCC Protection Committee
- Ann Millington NFCC Workforce Committee
- Amy Webb NFCC Finance Committee
- Susan Ellison-Bunce NFCC Central Programme Office
- Chris Davies NFCC Health and Safety
- Russ Paramore NFCC Business Continuity Group
- Neil Griffiths NFCC Hub (Data)
- Chris Colgan Chair of PPE Group
- Steven Adams NFCC Strategic Support
- Ged Sheridan Executive Support
- Sandra Wainwright Executive Support

NFCC Leadership Roy Wilsher, Phil Loach, Huw Jakeway

All enquiries should be directed to covid19.enquiries@nationalfirechiefs.org.uk