



Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Chair

Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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30 December 2022

Dear Minister,

The Committee took oral evidence on the state of the fire and rescue service on 9 November 2022. During the session, Members asked the witnesses about the frequency of multi-agency training and exercises, since the 2017 Manchester Arena Terror Attack, in relation to the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP).

Mark Hardingham of the National Fire Chief's Council [responded](#) that “currently there is no national centralised database of all Fire and Rescue Service training and exercising” but expressed confidence that Local Resilience Forums and Fire and Rescue Services “will be clear that interoperability and the application of the principles of JESIP should be applied, as resolving emergencies requires multi-agency engagement, as has been highlighted through a number of events, debriefs and reports.”

In its [response](#), HMICFRS said:

There has been very little change in the numbers of multi-agency training exercises between 2018/19 (1,040), when we carried out our first round of inspections, and 2021/22 (1,006), when we carried out our second round of inspections, that services have told us they have carried out.

In order to fully understand how well these arrangements are working, we would need to collaborate with CQC to get a rounded picture of emergency service JESIP response. HMICFRS inspects Policing and Fire and Rescue Services, we would need to be commissioned to work with others in order for us to look at multi-agency response in more detail.

I am writing to ask whether the Home Office has considered commissioning HMICFRS to look at the multiagency response under JESIP? I would appreciate a response by 13 January.

Yours sincerely

Dame Diana Johnson MP