



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities &
Local Government*

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Abena Oppong-Asare MP
Chair of the HCLG Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

26 October 2026

Dear Abena,

**REPORT ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES ARE ACTING
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR
ENGLAND**

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England sets out the Government's priorities and expectations for fire and rescue authorities (FRAs).

I am required under Section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, to report to Parliament every two years on the extent to which FRAs are acting in accordance with the Framework and any steps taken to secure that FRAs are doing so.

The last report to Parliament under section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 was published in June 2023 and covered the periods 2019-20 and 2020-21. Following the transfer of responsibility for fire and rescue policy to my department in 2025, the next report was not published as originally intended. This report therefore covers the two subsequent reporting periods, 2021-22 to 2022-23 and 2023-24 to 2024-25, ensuring Parliament has a complete picture of the extent to which FRAs have acted in accordance with the National Framework over that period.

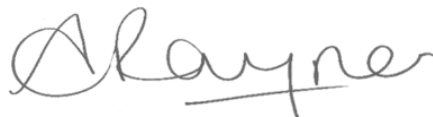
In making this assessment, my department undertook an audit and review of all relevant documents from all English FRAs to ensure that they have each met the requirements to publish an annual statement of assurance and the other mandatory documents under the Framework. This was followed by a more detailed sampling exercise on a cross-section of seven FRAs, covering a mix of urban/ rural authority areas, HMICFRS performance gradings and governance structures. In each of the sample areas, officials cross-referenced the information in the FRA's assurance statement with the priorities set out in the Framework, focusing on key areas such as operational readiness, community safety initiatives and resource management.

One FRA did not publish an annual Statement of Assurance for 2023-24, although it met all other requirements of the Framework in terms of publications both prior and subsequent to 2023-24. My officials intend to meet with the Chair of the FRA to understand the reasons for this instance of non-compliance and to understand if there is any support that they may need in the future to ensure they continue to comply.

Having considered the evidence available across both reporting periods, I am satisfied that FRAs overall have provided sufficient assurance that they are acting in accordance with the National Framework.

I have enclosed a copy of the report for the Committee's information. The report will be published on GOV.UK today and I will deposit a copy of this letter and the Report by the Secretary of State on Fire and Rescue Authorities' Compliance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England in the House libraries. I welcome the Committee's continued interest in these matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Rayner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RT HON ANGELA RAYNER MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government