



Essex County
Fire & Rescue Service

Risk Based Intervention Programme

2025-2031



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Introduction

At Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS), we have reviewed our Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) and our historic approach to assessing risk within the built environment across Essex.

As part of this review, we have adopted the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) publication “Guidance on Risk in the Built Environment, Highest Risk Occupancies and Prioritising Fire Safety Interventions (Version 6)” and, for the first time, transitioned to a Risk Based Intervention Programme.

This updated programme is designed to support both internal teams and external partners in understanding how fire safety risks are identified, and how our Protection activity is prioritised across premises regulated under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (as amended) - hereafter referred to as The Order.

There are many other tasks undertaken by the Service’s Protection Officers, these include, but are not limited to:

- Statutory consultations e.g. building regulations, planning applications, licensing applications
- Post fire investigation
- Alleged/emerging fire risk
- Operational fire safety activity
- Enforcement activity
- Business engagement

Scope

The regulated premises include all buildings used for a commercial purpose, or for public use, as well as the areas within residential buildings which are shared by more than one household.

In February 2025 there were approximately 56,556 premises within Essex that fall in scope of The Order.

The Risk Based Intervention Programme (RBIP) forms just one strand of our Protection commitment.



Definitions

Address base	The Ordnance Survey national gazetteer of all UK postal addresses.
Attribute	A feature of a premises which has influence on the likelihood a fire may occur or the degree of harm that may be sustained in the event of a fire.
(the) Authority	The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority (EPFCC). The body with a statutory duty to enforce the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, as amended. (also, the Enforcing Authority).
CFRMIS	Management information system used by ECFRS Protection Department.
Dwelling	A domestic premises as defined in Article 2 of The Order.
Harm	The adverse impact on life safety of relevant persons.
Likelihood	The relative probability that an event will occur based upon local historical data from the preceding three years.
Regulated	A premises to which the RRFSO is applicable.
Relevant person	Relevant persons as defined in Article 2 of The Order.
Risk	A combination of likelihood and severity; the likelihood that a fire will cause harm, together with a measure of effect.
Risk based intervention programme	Pre-planned fire safety visits based upon the protection risk profile
Risk data capture	An activity whereby information is collected and recorded forming the foundation of risk profiling.
Risk profile	The value assigned to one or more premises record(s) allowing comparison between individual premises, types of premises or geographic locations.
(the) Service	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (also ECFRS or our Service)
Severity	A value representing the potential maximum harm in the event of a fire.

Risk Based Intervention Programme (RBIP)

The Risk Based Intervention Programme (RBIP) details how Essex County Fire and Rescue Service will use our resources to deliver a programme of proactive building safety interventions in premises where The Order applies and meet the requirements of the current National Framework.

The National Framework expects Fire Authorities to have a locally determined risk-based intervention programme in place for enforcing compliance with the provisions of The Order. Historically this has been based on local factors.

The 2025-2031 RBIP is the first to incorporate the principles of national guidance on risk in the built environment, highest risk occupancies and prioritising fire safety interventions. This supports fire and rescue services (FRS) in using a consistent intervention methodology, moving beyond traditional inspections. This aligns with the National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) recommendations that FRS familiarise themselves with the strategies, definitions and methods in the guidance and consider updating their risk-based interventions approaches accordingly.

This intervention programme shows ECFRS prioritises resources for premises posing the greatest fire safety risk to life due to non-compliance with fire safety law.

We plan to follow the recommendation to inspect the highest risk premises (categorised as very-high risk) every three years and will inspect our high-risk premises at least once every five years. Therefore, this guidance covers 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2031. This also aligns with our current CRMP, allowing sufficient time at the end of the programme for the next CRMP to be launched, so we can incorporate any changes in strategic direction when developing our next RBIP.

The new approach will shape future interventions by the Business Engagement Team, and our operational crews who are trained to carry out fire safety checks (FSO40's).

Thematic Inspections Programmes

From time to time, it is acknowledged that incidents or occurrences locally, nationally, or even internationally will raise awareness of issues that may have an impact on premises and therefore the safety of people within Essex.

In such circumstances, consideration will be given to the implementation of a thematic inspection programme to ensure that the risk in those premises is reduced to an acceptable level.

Enforcement

The RBIP goal isn't to generate enforcement actions, but to effectively focus resources at the highest risks, maintaining fire protection standards through compliance and reducing fire-related deaths. However, this targeted approach will likely result in some enforcement actions.

Enforcement activity is defined under two categories. Informal Enforcement and Formal Enforcement.

Following an audit of a premises, if deficiencies are identified then the inspecting officer, supported by the Enforcement Management Model within the audit form, will determine the appropriate action to take. This can include:

Informal enforcement

- Advise, educate and inform
- Notification of deficiencies Prioritising Interventions

Formal enforcement

- Enforcement Notice
- Alterations Notice
- Prohibition Notice
- Prosecution

Risk profiling

To profile risk within the built environment across Essex, we have adopted the national methodology scoring system, which has been created using the IRS Measured Scores and the ‘Potential Consequences’ rating for each occupancy, creating the Combined Risk Categories, which are:

Combined risk categories:

- Very high
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low

ECFRS has then cross referenced the NFCC Occupancy Category with the data held in CFRMIS, allowing us to identify which category every regulated premises in Essex falls into.

We have then been able to align appropriate interventions to these combined risk categories.

Combined risk category	Description	Intervention
Very high	Known highest risk buildings only (Monitoring Compliance Programme)	Regulatory Inspection (all) Periodic business engagement and education
High	Known highest risk buildings only (Monitoring Compliance Programme)	Regulatory Inspection (qualifying criterial) Periodic business engagement and education
Medium	Unknown but foreseeable risk (identify & reduce risk)	Fire Safety Check (FSO40) Business Engagement & Education Visits (Qualifying Criterial)
Low	Unknown but limited risk	Business Engagement & Education Visits (Qualifying Criterial)
Very low	Unknown but very low/unlikely risk	NFA/sampling/partners/education/preventative campaigns

Prioritising Interventions

Rural areas typically have lower risk levels, less demand, and fewer emergencies. Responding to rural emergencies presents unique challenges. Longer travel distances, difficult navigation for large fire engines on narrow country lanes, and the need for slower speeds can all impact response times. Reaching isolated properties can also be more difficult.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs’ April 2023 “Digest of Rural England Statistics” introduces a Rural-Urban Classification. This classification, based on population size, defines rural areas as those outside settlements with over 10,000 residents, Census Output Areas (the smallest data areas available) are assigned to urban or rural categories.

Five of the six rural categories apply to Essex:

- Rural hamlets and isolated dwellings
- Rural village
- Rural town and fringe
- Urban city and town
- Urban major conurbation

Using the above, the 2025-2031 RBIP will, where possible, prioritise at each level of intervention first by risk category, and then by urban or rural categories.

Regulatory inspection intervention priority

Combined risk category	Description	Intervention	Priority for intervention
Very high	Known highest risk buildings only (Monitoring Compliance Programme)	Regulatory Inspection (All) Periodic business engagement and education	1.Rural hamlets and isolated dwellings 2.Rural village 3.Rural town and fringe 4.Urban city and town 5.Urban major conurbation
High	Known highest risk buildings only (Monitoring Compliance Programme)	Regulatory Inspection (Qualifying Criterial) Periodic business engagement and education	6.Rural hamlets and isolated dwellings 7.Rural village 8.Rural town and fringe 9.Urban city and town 10.Urban major conurbation

Fire Safety Checks intervention priority
(FSO40s - undertaken by operational crews)

Combined risk category	Description	Intervention	Priority for intervention
Medium	Unknown but foreseeable risk (identify and reduce risk)	Fire Safety Checks (FSO40's)	1.Rural hamlets and isolated dwellings 2.Rural village 3.Rural town and fringe 4.Urban city and town 5.Urban major conurbation

Business engagement intervention priorities

Combined risk category	Description	Intervention	Priority for intervention
Very high	Known highest risk buildings only (Monitoring Compliance Programme)	Targeted campaigns and seminars	Programmed annually
High	Known highest risk buildings only (Monitoring Compliance Programme)	Targeted campaigns and seminars	Programmed annually
Medium	Unknown but foreseeable risk (identify and reduce risk)	Engagement and education visits	Following regulatoruy inspection outcomes and enforcement trends
Low	Unknown but limited risk	Engagement and education visits	1. Rural hamlets and isolated dwellings 2. Rural village 3. Rural town and fringe
Very low	Unknown but very low/unlikely risk	NFA, sampling, partners, education, prevention campaigns	Programme annually based on existing media campaigns, static mareting (via website) updated following trends

Note – it is recognised that the rural areas are generally covered by on-call stations, and currently most on-call firefighters are not trained to carry out FSO40’s. It’s also not contractual for on-call firefighters to complete FSO40’s.

This will be factored into our training schedule to roll out the Level 2 Fire Safety accreditation, with priority given to those on-call firefighters where the most prioritised premises are.

Where on-call stations do not want to carry out FSO40’s, then consideration will be given to using wholetime when they are carrying out stand-by duties, or through pre-planned movements and necessary backfill, to ensure FSO40’s are completed based on our risk-based approach.

Applying the National Guidance in Essex

While ECFRS will follow the NFCC’s Guidance on built environment risk, high-risk occupancies, and prioritising fire safety interventions (version 6, published February 2025), some local adjustments have been made to the suggested interventions and NFCC risk categories:

Crown and MOD

The Fire Authority has a statutory duty to enforce The Order in most premises, however other agencies, like the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Crown Premises Inspection Group, and local authorities also have enforcement responsibilities. Therefore, ECFRS will not carry out regulatory inspections at these premises but recommend that local Station Managers remain aware of their risk and advise local crews to continue to visit these sites to complete 7(2)(d) visits, PORIS the sites, and where necessary complete SSRI’s (Site Specific Risk Information), in line with their local risk plans.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

Due to the increasing number of BESS sites in Essex, these systems (used for energy storage and distribution) have been escalated to a Medium-Risk category. This will trigger an FSO40, and key information can be passed back to Protection Inspectors where regulatory fire safety non-compliances or concerns are identified by the crews. This will also offer local crews the opportunity to familiarise themselves with these sites, and complete PORIS assessments too.

Recycling process and store

Given previous incidents and the developing risk of lithium-ion battery fires in waste streams, Recycling Processes and Stores have been escalated to a Medium-Risk category.

Purpose built flats and houses converted to flats

The priority in this category will always be flats requiring remediation or mitigating measures, as these pose a greater risk. ECFRS will conduct regulatory inspections of the premises falling into the classification of “Purpose Built Flats – Remediation/Mitigating Measures”.

All high rise residential buildings (residential premises over 18m or 7 storeys or more) will continue to be classed as very high risk, with the follow up inspection frequency (within the 3-year cycle) being determined by the findings and outcomes of the full audit.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)

Local Housing Authority (LHA) are the primary enforcing authority for the Housing Act 2004. A national protocol, adopted by ECFRS and the LHAs, clarifies responsibilities for fire safety in HMOs, ensuring appropriate management of reactive interventions. With the exception of mixed commercial/ HMO type premises, premises only used as HMOs are not proactively prioritised in the ECFRS 2025-2031 RBIP.

Other proactive interventions recognised under the 2025-2031 RBIP

Beyond the RBIP’s specific premises interventions, ECFRS also proactively intervenes with premises in a number of other ways, which are included and considered in the 2025-2031 RBIP.

NAMOS inspections

The Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990 (referred to as the NAMOS Regulations), require sites storing or using 25+ tonnes of dangerous substances to notify ECFRS and the HSE. This is managed and monitored by our Rural Engagement Officer, who maintains notifications against the relevant premises, and communicates the relevant content of these notifications to the relevant departments and operational crews.

Statutory notifications

Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, as amended, responsible persons for new luminous tube sign installations must notify ECFRS 42 days before work begins, detailing the cut-off switch location, colour and marking.

AFA - Unwanted Fire Signals and AFA

We will continue working with business to reduce false alarms. Premises with persistent false alarms will be visited.

Licensing

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (the Authority) is a “Responsible Authority” under the Licensing Act 2003. Local authorities manage licensing generally, but ECFRS is notified of applications and advises applicants of their responsibilities under The Order.

Events

While event notification isn’t legally required, it is recommended. The Events Process may involve members of the team attending the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meetings and multi-agency meetings. Our team provides advice and guidance to event organisers and the SAG.

Building regulations

Through consultation with ‘building control bodies’, ECFRS ensures buildings are adequately fire-protected as by Building Regulations. Building control bodies coordinate the consultation process, and our Inspecting Officers respond to consultations requests. These responses are quality assured through our quality assurance process, which is set out in our Protection Quality Assurance Policy.

Assurance

To track the RBIP’s effectiveness, data will be analysed centrally monthly and quarterly. This information will be shared in the services monthly Performance Reports and Protection update papers, which are also shared with the Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. It will also be shared annually

with MHCLG.

To assure the Authority that ECFRS is targeting its resources affectively it has adopted the principles of the following recent framework guidance established by NFCC:

The National Framework expects Fire Authorities to have a locally determined RBIP in place for enforcing compliance with the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, as amended.

Protection Fire Standards which require the Authority to create, and be able to evidence, its Community Risk Management Plan in line with a nationally approved structure which involves the key components detailed within the standard.

The Competence Framework for Fire Safety Regulators expects officers to be trained to the appropriate standard for the work they undertake.

Community Risk Management Programme (now its own Fire Standard) Whereby a fire and rescue service assess its foreseeable community related risks and uses this knowledge to decide how those risks will be mitigated.

Guidance Technical Note - Higher Risk Occupancies Preliminary Guidance and Relative Priorities for Risk Based Intervention Programmes. Current NFCC guidance which has been updated and published on the NFCC website.

Developing a National Risk Methodology - Definition of Risk Phase 2 - Other Building Fires:

Guidance on risk in the built environment, highest risk occupancies and prioritising fire safety interventions - Version 6 – September 2024, published 27th February 2025.

Evaluation

The NFCC guidance and recommendations have supported the design of ECFRS 2025-2031 RBIP. It has also supported Kent Fire & Rescue Service (KFRS) in developing their similar RBIP, based on the same principles outlined in the Guidance on risk in the built environment, highest risk occupancies and prioritising fire safety interventions (version 6).

To continue this partnership and support national RBIP development, the NFCC and KFRS will conduct peer reviews of ECFRS 2025-2031 RBIP at both 12 and 36 months, to evaluate successes and identify areas for improvement.

In return, at the same time periods, ECFRS will peer review the KFRS RBIP.

The evaluation aims to measure if the delivery and outcomes from the 2025-2031 RBIP are:

- Effective
- Robust
- Focusing resources correctly
- Driving safer businesses, places of work and where people live.
- Proportionately and fairly applying enforcement activity.

The evaluation will reply on several qualitative and quantitative data sets and information to review and understand the successes and areas of improvement of the 2025-2031 RBIP.

Evaluation area	Evaluation Criteria	12 month evaluation	36 month evaluation
Guidance compliance	Has the implementation and delivery of the RBIP aligned with guidance	X	X
Intervention coverage and frequency	What is the number of interventions vs planned at this stage	X	X
	% of overdue interventions	X	X
	Website analytics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of traffic on Protection areas of external website Are bigger areas of non-compliance being researched and reviewed? 	X	X
Compliance improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has there been a sustained outcome in terms of compliance or deficiency's Does the intervention program provide evidence on positives or negatives in residents'/occupants' knowledge of fire safety? Does the intervention program lead to changes in fire safety behaviors? Does the intervention program improve the physical fire safety infrastructure of buildings (e.g., working smoke detectors, clear escape routes)? 	X	X
	Trends in enforcement actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location Premises type Articles % change in enforcement actions from previous years 	X	X
	Equitable enforcement outcomes (bias assessment)	X	X
Efficiency and resource allocation	Total monthly inspections completed per officer, vs target	X	X
	Average inspection time	X	X
	Colleague capacity	X	X
Impact on fire safety	Has there been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More or less incidents in premises planned for interventions. Incidents in premises already inspected under this RBIP. Incidents in premises planned but not yet inspected in this RBIP. Has the intervention program reduced the overall cost relating to incidents. Does the effectiveness of the intervention program vary across different premises classifications Does the effectiveness of the intervention program vary across different demographics? 	X	X
Customer reflection and review	Survey results (businesses, colleagues, regulators) Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the barriers to participation in the intervention program. 	X	X
	Case studies (successful and less successful interventions)	X	X
	Independently facilitated debrief (Organisational Learning Team)		X
Benchmarking	Comparison with other UK FRSS' RBIPs		X

Appendix

Appendix 1 - Definition of risk (other building fires)
National Risk Medthology 020924

Appendix 2 - ECFRS resources for the risk

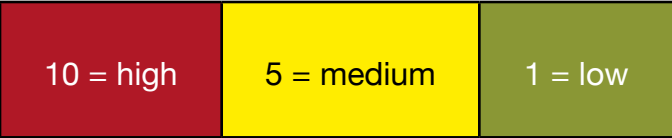
Appendix 3 - Risk scoring matrix for enforcement activity

Risk Influenceing factors		Occupancy Category (Addressbase classifications in brackets)	IRS Measured Scores		Potential Consequence Ratings (potential severity of consequence if a fire develops)						Combined Risk Score	Relative Risk Score	Combined Risk Category
			Likelihood	Consequence	Individual Life Risk - (Dwellings only)	Societal Life Risk	Firefighter Risk	Community Loss Risk	Heritage Risk	Environment Risk			
A. Dependent occupiers and complex evacuation risk	A1	Prison/Secure Establishments (CC03, CC03HD, CC03PR, CC03SC)	10	6.2	0	10	10	10	1	1	317		Very High
	A2	Care/Nursing Homes/Hospices (RI, RI01, CM03, CMO3HI)	9	7.5	0	10	5	10	1	1	295		Very High
	A3	Hospital (Treatment Buildings) (CMO3HP)	10	4.4	0	10	5	10	1	5	284		Very High
	A4	Communal Residence - Supported Housing, Hostels/Refuges (for vulnerable people) (Multi Occ) (RI02/RI02NC/RI02RC all)	8.5	8.8	1	5	5	5	1	1	258		Very High
	A5	Sheltered Accommodation Flats (multi occ) (RD08)	5.7	8.4	1	5	5	5	1	1	226		High
	A6	Residential Boarding School/Residential Education /Residential Family Centres/Residential Childrens Homes (OFSTED) (RI03)	4.3	5.8	0	5	5	5	1	1	181		Medium
	A7	SEN Day Schools for dependent pupils (CE06)	6.2	1	0	5	1	5	1	1	132		Low
	A8	Nursery/Creche (non residential) (CE02)	1.9	2.1	0	5	1	5	1	1	100		Very Low
B. Residential sleeping risk	B1	Block of flats (with interim measures in place) (Not on OS - Align IRS scores with B3 - RD06?)	4.3	5.8	0	5	10	5	1	1	206		High
	B2	Block of flats (multiple use - commercial & residential) (Not on OS - align IRS scores with B3 - RD06?)	1.5	8.7	0	1	10	5	1	1	187		Medium
	B3	Block of flats (Not on OS - RD06?)	1.5	8.7	0	1	10	5	1	1	187		Medium
	B4	Student Accommodation (Flats) (Not on OS - align IRS scores with B3 RD06?)	4.3	5.8	0	1	10	5	1	1	186		Medium
	B5	HMO (Bedsits with shared facilities) (RH, RH01, RH02, RH03)	1.7	10	0	5	5	1	1	1	177		Medium
	B6	Flat/HMO above Shop (Not on OS align IRS scores with B5)	1.7	10	0	5	5	1	1	1	177		Medium
	B7	Houses/other converted to flats (Not on OS - Align IRS scores with B3)	1.7	10	0	5	5	1	1	1	177		Medium
	B8	Other Sleeping Residential (Mobile homes etc) (RD01, RD07, RD10)	1.5	8.7	0	1	1	1	1	1	122		Very Low
	B9	Houses/bungalows - single occupancy (RD02, RD03, RD04)	1.5	8.7	0	1	1	1	1	1	122		Very Low

C. Commercial/ temporary sleeping risk	C1	Hotels, Guest houses, B&Bs, Inns, aparthotels, youth hostels, whole property holiday lets etc (CH, CH01, CH01YH, CH02, CH03)	1.8	6	0	5	5	1	1	1	138		Low
	C2	Other sleeping commercial/ temporary - caravan/ camping sites, holiday camp, Guardian, Refugee, Asylum Seeker etc) (CL02 - all, OU05)	1.8	6	0	5	5	1	1	1	138		Low
D. Pubic assembly and complex evacuation risk	D1	Major retail malls, department stores, market halls (CR04, CR04FK,CR04FV,CR04LV)	6.4	2.6	0	5	5	10	1	1	195		Medium
	D2	Major Leisure, Public Assembly, Entertainment, Bar/Pub/Night Clubs etc (CL, CL01, CL01LP, CL06 all, CL07 all, CL08 all, CL11 all, CR06 all)	2.1	4.4	0	10	5	10	1	1	195		Medium
	D3	Other leisure, Restaurants etc (CR07, CL10, CL10RE)	4.1	5	0	1	1	1	1	1	111		Very Low
E. Environmental risk	E1	Major Industrial, Major Storage, Hazardous Material sites (CI, CI01 all, CI02 all)	1.9	4.9	0	5	10	10	1	10	221		High
	E2	Light Industrial, Light Storage (CI03 to CI105TD all, CI08, CT10, CT10BG)	1.9	5.4	0	1	5	1	1	5	123		Very Low
	E3	Waste and Recycling (CI06, CI07, CC09, CC10, CU02, CU10)	1.5	4.5	0	1	1	5	1	10	123		Very Low
	E4	Energy Generation, Battery Storage sites (Not on OS? Align with E1?)			0	1	5	1	1	5	50		Very Low
F. National heritage, community or economic loss risk	F1	Education, Schools, further education centres (non resi) (CE, CE01 all, CE03 to CE05 all, CE07)	5.6	3.6	0	1	1	10	1	1	157		Low
	F2	Public & Heritage - Museums, Churches, Librarys, Historic Listed (CC, CC02, CC04, CC04YR, CC07, CL03, CL03RR, CL04 all, ZS, ZW all)	1.6	3.8	0	1	1	10	5	1	129		Very Low
	F3	Medical Centres, Outpatient hospital/clinic, GP, Dentist (CM, CM01, CM02 all, CM04, CM05, CM05ZS)	2.4	3.2	0	1	1	10	1	1	121		Very Low
	F4	National Infrastructure, (Transport, Utilities, Services etc) (CT, CT01 - all, CT04 to CT08 all, CT10BU to CU01, CU03 to CU09SE, CX to CX08 all,)	3.2	1.3	0	1	1	10	1	1	110		Very Low
	F5	Other Shops (CM06, CR, CR01, CR02, CR02EV, CR02PO, CR05, CR08, CR08CS, CR08GC, CR08SM, CR09, CR09BS, CR09OL, CR10)	2	4.7	0	1	1	1	1	1	87		Very Low
	F6	Other Workplaces (C, CA all, CB, CN to CN05MR all, M, MA to MN99VT all)	1.5	4.7	0	1	1	1	1	1	82		Very Low
	F7	Multi storey car parks CT03PP)	2.4	1.2	0	1	5	1	1	1	76		Very Low
	F8	Offices CC08, CC12, CO to CO02 all,	1.3	4.1	0	1	1	1	1	1	74		Very Low
weighting applied to figures in columns E to L above:			10	10	5	5	5	5	2.5	2.5			

Guidance notes

- The ‘IRS Measured Scores’ have been derived from analysis of IRS Fires data from England Fire & Rescue Services over the period 2014-2020 and the total number of each occupancy type in England derived from OS Addressbase. The accuracy of IRS Data and relationships between IRS and OS property classifications is imperfect and nearest equivalents have been used where data analysis was not possible. (These occupancies are shown in Red text)
- ‘The ‘Potential Consequence’ ratings for each occupancy category are generic indicators of the potential severity of consequences if a fire can develop or spread within an average occupancy of that type before mitigation by the Fire & Rescue Services. The individual ratings are based on professional judgement and experience of SMEs - and complement the numerical data evidence from the IRS ‘measured consequence’ ratings.
- ‘The ratings scale of Higher (10), Medium (5) and Low (1) have been provided initially to create a significant statistical change at the generic occupancy level but may be varied to become a scale of 1-10 depending on the specific building attributes. It is also possible to increase a score above 10 in exceptional circumstances to elevate the highest risk buildings to a ‘high’ or ‘very high’ status if the scoring does not otherwise allow. (e.g. major national heritage sites, key national infrastructure, major public assembly venues, etc).



- These generic potential consequences are rated for each occupancy type and each of the six key risk groups. For example - a developing fire in a hospital is more likely to have ‘higher’ potential consequences in terms of ‘Societal Life

Risk’ due to the complexity of evacuation and vulnerability of patients, is more likely to pose a ‘medium’ potential risk to firefighters due to delays and complexity in firefighting and evacuation activity. There is also likely to be ‘higher’ potential consequences to the community should a hospital be significantly damaged by the fire. Individual, Heritage and environmental risks from a fire in an average hospital are likely to be ‘low’ unless other factors are present.

Combined Risk Score and ‘Bandings’

The combined risk score is simply the total sum of each individual score (each multiplied by its weighting in row 46). Having calculated the combined risk score for each building category, the next step is to determine appropriate bandings for risk scores. In discussion with the working group, it was determined that five bandings (from very high to very low) would be the most applicable for FRSS. To define these bandings, ORH suggested using the Minimum Square Error (MSE) calculation method to evenly assign the observations to different clusters, according to the distance between the observations and the cluster centres, so that the MSE is minimised.

The bandings derived from this statistical assessment were as follows:

- Very-high risk = 265 and above
- High risk = 217 to 264
- Medium risk = 177 to 216
- Low risk = 137 to 176
- Very low risk = Up to 136

Appendix 2 - ECFRS resources for the risk

The number of trained Inspecting Officers (IO) budgeted within Protection is a direct reflection of the commitment set out in this RBIP, ensuring that we are resourced to manage our risk.

The expected audit completion rate of a qualified inspecting officer is **9 audits per month**, which considers all other statutory obligations and enforcement activity that they are likely to have within their daily tasks. It also recognises that under this RBIP there is likely to be an increase in non-compliant premises being reaudited within the threee or five year commitment, to ensure Responsible Persons are taking appropriate action, and the Service can track the impact Protection is having on making the built environment safer.

	RBIP premises no.	Commitment
Very high	1657	Over 3 years
High	2257	Over 5 years
Total	3914	

Inspecting Officers will also react to all fires in premises where The Order applies regardless of risk level.

Year	Inspecting Officers Budgeted
2025/26	21.6

Monthly performance projections also consider our workforce planning assumptions, our predicted staff turnover rates, and the time it takes for new staff to become qualified and competent, ensuing that monthly targets are dynamic, but ensure that we remain on track to complete our RBIP commitment.

Appendix 3 - Risk Scoring matrix for enforcement activity

A total score for a premises will be attained through Audit activity, using the national audit form in CFRMIS and the Enforcement Management Model. The total score will then be used to ascertain the relevant level of enforcement activity that is required.

The enforcement activity is a recommendation, and the Protection Officer has discretion to exercise professional judgement when deciding upon the level of enforcement to be imposed.

Scoring Matrix

Score	Compliance level	Recommended action
0-25	1	Broadly compliant - FSO-2 A letter of compliance
26-35	2	Inform and educatr - FSO-2 or FSO-3 (notification of deficiencies) based on inspecting officer’s discretion.
36-45	3	Notification of deficiencies - FSO-3 or enforcement notice, based on inspecting officer’s discretion
46-55	4	Enforcement notice/ Prohibition notice
56+	5	Fast track enforcement notice (consider prosecution)



**Essex County
Fire & Rescue Service**