

A Regional Fire Investigation Approach for Wales

The Fire & Rescue Services have agreed a regional approach for fire investigation in Wales, which is in accord with the Fire & Rescue National Framework for Wales.

The CFOA Working Group recommended that the provision of a specialist team or teams for Wales would not currently provide a value for money solution, and that instead a consistent approach by the three Services should be adopted. The benefits of introducing such an approach have already been demonstrated in England.

The approach is based on a 3-tier fire investigation provision across Wales, with common skills determined for all levels of fire investigation officer. An all-Wales Practitioners Forum will be established, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding between the Services for the provision of mutual assistance. The approach will also support and facilitate partnership working with other key stakeholders.

The Working Group produced a report with nine recommendations that will now be implemented through the lead officers for fire investigation in each Service. A copy of the full report is available on the Community Risk Reduction Department information server.