



WALES **AUDIT** OFFICE
SWYDDFA **ARCHWILIO** CYMRU

Wales Programme for Improvement - Fire

Joint Risk Assessment Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority,
Performance Review and Audit Committee

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30 July 2007



Introduction

Purpose

- Explain the WPI process
- Key principles that underpin WPI-Fire
- Key components of WPI-Fire
- Present and agree the key risks inherent in the joint risk assessment
- Next steps



What is it?

- Mechanism for securing improvement in the services provided
- Planned introduction from April 2007 but interim arrangements agreed from October 2006

Intention to create a framework that will specifically:

- Address the needs of Fire and Rescue Service in Wales
- Facilitate comparison with England (and beyond)
- Reflect the content of the Assembly's National Framework for Wales



Key Components of WPI-Fire

- Risk-based regulatory approach focussed on addressing the underlying causes of any barriers necessary to secure improvements and sharing good practice
- Annual RRP Action / Improvement Plan published by 31 October
- Assessment by the Fire and Rescue Authority, Peer assessment teams and WAO that will lead to an annual Joint Risk Assessment (JRA)
- Commitment to achieving continuous improvement
- Effective management of performance



WPI-Fire Annual Assessment

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- Operational assessment – led by Peer Assessment Teams
 - Risk analysis
 - Prevention and protection
 - Operational preparedness
 - Call management and incident support
 - Emergency response
- Non operational assessment – led by WAO
 - Leadership
 - Governance and management
 - Capacity
 - Performance management and improvement
 - E-fire and rescue



Joint risk assessment

- Informs the FRA's Risk Reduction Plan and Improvement Plan
- Informs the regulatory plan
- Draws on operational, non-operational assurance, WAO work on *Making the Connections* and previous regulatory work
- Has been discussed by officers, the WAO and the peer assessment team
- Will be reviewed in 2008



Joint risk assessment – key operational risks

- **Risk analysis**
 - **Business continuity management - early stages of development within the Service which could be hampered because of the limited resources available to the new Civil Contingencies and Resilience Department**
 - **Risk identification – need to fulfil planned population of remaining panes of the FSEC model**
- **Fire prevention policies – very positive findings but ongoing capacity risk in respect of fire safety audits**
- **Good operational policies in place, but management recognise the difficulties associated with delivering these in a service which is mainly comprised of retained duty system**



Joint risk assessment – key non-operational risks

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- Public engagement - FRS recognise the need to engage with the general public to better 'sell' new proposals and changes to delivery
- Sustainability and Equalities – need to carry out assessments
- Engaging the workforce – recognition of need to maintain and improve industrial relations within change programme
- Financial management – implementation of audit report on procurement and development of PRAC
- E-fire and rescue - recognised need to develop effective business continuity arrangements for its IT function
- Making further improvements to scrutiny and member engagement – an issue for all three FRAs