



Position statement

Arson and deliberate fire reduction position statement

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) recognises the impact that deliberate fire setting has on people, the communities in which they live and work, the environment and the economic vitality of the nation. The NFCC is committed to taking a leading role in engaging key partners and the public to reduce this blight on local communities.

NFCC will contextualise the difference between serious arson and anti-social behaviour related deliberate fires, to ensure both are treated with appropriate gravity.

Arson and deliberate fire setting is a complex topic with many facets that may vary significantly in different locations nationally. NFCC recognises that local solutions best fit local problems and as such will encourage Fire and Rescue Services to engage local stakeholders to reduce the financial, psychological, emotional and environmental impact of arson and deliberate fire setting.

What the NFCC will do

NFCC will have a strong and consistent public voice on the issue of arson and deliberate fire setting.

NFCC will encourage Fire and Rescue Services to commit resources to work with partners and other stakeholders to reduce arson and deliberate fire setting in their areas, through the development of a Deliberate Fire Strategy that is aligned to the four components of the Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. The Serious and Organised Crime Strategy aims to promote:

- The development of consistent recording protocols for deliberate fires across the Police and Fire Services (PREPARE)
- The role of the Fire and Rescue Service in the investigation of deliberate fires (PURSUE)
- The development of information sharing procedures across services, relevant to the scale of local issues (PROTECT)
- The recognition of the range of deliberate fire intervention and prevention services offered by the Fire and Rescue Service (PREVENT)
- The recognition of the range of deliberate fire intervention and prevention services offered by the Partners (PREVENT)
- The development of advice, support and guidance, for Fire and Rescue Services and partners (PREVENT).

NFCC will align relevant work streams to ensure consistent, efficient and effective working in the area of arson and deliberate fire setting.

NFCC will work alongside Government and the National Police Chiefs Council, through appropriate channels and forums, to ensure that the impact of arson and deliberate fire-setting is recognised, and considered in the wider crime agenda.