



## **SFRS preparedness for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games**

### **Statement by HM Chief Inspector of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

In my report dated 2 May 2014 on the preparedness of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) for the XX Commonwealth Games ('the Games') I noted that the SFRS was expecting to confirm its readiness for the Games in June 2014.

Inspectors have followed up with the SFRS on its continuing preparations for the Games since publication of my report, with a view to establishing that these have progressed satisfactorily.

The view expressed in my report of May 2014 was that the SFRS had appropriately identified the issues that needed to be addressed in preparation for the Games, and had made satisfactory progress in bringing the Service to a state of readiness. This view was backed up by the similar conclusion of a critical friend exercise carried out by London Fire Brigade.

For that reason, I concluded that it would be sufficient and proportionate for me to seek confirmation of the Service's ongoing preparations and readiness by way of telephone interviews with key staff members responsible for these activities.

These telephone interviews were carried out between 10 and 16 June 2014. My conclusion, based on those interviews, is that the Service's preparations have continued on track and that the Service continues to be well-placed to provide the public safety outcomes required of it in connection with the Games.

The Service's preparations have in recent weeks been ongoing in the context of UK-wide industrial action relating to firefighter pensions. I am satisfied that the SFRS is cognisant of the implications of that context for Games time service delivery.

My report of May 2014 noted that 'preparedness' for the Games is a dynamic concept, and ongoing attention will be required up to and throughout Games time to ensure that the SFRS is able to meet the additional demands placed on it by the Games. Subject to that, based on the latest information provided to me by SFRS staff, I am of the view that the Service may be described as ready for the Games in July 2014.

HM Chief Inspector of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, June 2014