

Request for a Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Decision

SECTION 1

Please identify who is requesting the decision:			
OPFCC Decision	YES	Decision Number:	PF xxxx/yyyy
CCFRA Decision	Y/N	Decision Number:	CF xxxx/yyyy
Constabulary Decision	Y/N	Decision Number:	CC xxxx/yyyy

(Please indicate whether this is a PART 1 or PART 2 decision (For Part 2 decisions, only the Section 1 is to be published))

PART 1 Decision:		PART 2 Decision:	✓
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DECISION TITLE: To proceed to agree guilty pleas submitted by Responsible Persons (2) relating to an HMO in Barrow in Furness

Executive Summary:

A fire occurred at a building in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (“the Building”) used as a house of multiple occupancy (“HMO”). 2 occupants were taken to hospital because of the incident. One of those occupants was in hospital for 6 months and has received life changing injuries. A Fire Safety Officer visited the Building and identified several deficiencies under the Fire Safety Order. Information received from those responsible for the building revealed further breaches.

Proceedings have been issued against 2 defendants who are responsible persons for the Building, offences relating to the breaches having been made out and it being in the public interest to do so.

The defendants have indicated their willingness to plead guilty to a number of offences at the hearing on 22nd June 2026. The Chief Executive is asked to agree these pleas.

Recommendation:

The Chief Executive is asked to agree the pleas put forward by the defendants.

Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for Cumbria Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. Any such interests are recorded below.

N/A – decision by Chief Executive under delegation.

I hereby:	Approve	the recommendations as set out above.
	do not approve	

Delete as appropriate:

Chief Executive


Signature:

Date: 17/06/2026

For OPFCC Office Use only:

Date of publication of decision:	
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PART 1 – NON CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC**1. Introduction & Background**

Proceedings have been issued against 2 defendants both of whom have indicated that they are prepared to plead guilty to offences at a hearing to take place on 22nd June 2026.

2. Issues for Consideration

Legal advice has been taken and acceptance of the charges is considered to be appropriate and acceptable to enable the case to be disposed of and the defendants accepting culpability.

3. Financial Implications

There are costs associated with the prosecution. At the sentencing hearing the Court will be provided with evidence of those costs and be asked to order that they be paid by one or both of the defendants.

4. Summary and Recommendation

The Chief Executive is recommended to accept guilty pleas to a number of charges from the 2 defendants for breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) 2005.

5. Further Implications

Legal

External legal advice has been obtained, which confirms that the pleas put forward are acceptable.

The Chief Executive of the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner has the delegation (under the corporate governance framework) to take decisions about proceedings on behalf of the Commissioner and in consultation with the Commissioner and the Chief Fire Officer.

Risk

It is considered that the pleas accepted are sufficient. They will enable the matter to be disposed of whilst ensuring the defendants admit culpability and that an appropriate penalty applied and costs can be recovered.

HR / Equality

No implications.

ICT

No implications.

Procurement

No implications.


Victims

2 occupants were hospitalised, and one occupant has suffered severe injury. There was a strong public interest in pursuing this prosecution and in disposing of it in an expeditious manner that ensures the defendants admit culpability.

6. Backgrounds / supporting papers

N/A

CHIEF OFFICER APPROVAL

<p>Chief Fire Officer</p> <p>I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.</p> 	
<p>Signature:</p>	<p>Date: 17/06/2026</p>

<p>Media Strategy The decision taken may require a press announcement or media strategy.</p>	
<p>Will a press release be required following the decision being considered?</p>	<p>Not at present</p>
<p>If yes, has a media strategy been formulated?</p>	
<p>Is the media strategy attached?</p>	
<p>What is the proposed date of the press release:</p>	

<p>Public Access to Information Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PFCC website within 5 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead in the Part 2 section of the form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would not compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.</p>	
<p>Is the publication of this form to be deferred?</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Until what date (if known):</p>	
<p>If yes, for what reason:</p>	
<p>If this is a Part 2 Decision, has the Part 2 element of this form been completed</p>	<p>YES</p>