









#### What does the RRO expect of Fire & Rescue Authorities?

- Fire and Rescue Authorities are required under the Order to inspect business premises within their local areas to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Order and that adequate fire safety measures are in place. In addition, Authorities have a duty to provide fire safety advice when requested.

#### What are the penalties for non-compliance?

- Fire and Rescue Authorities will not use the RRO as a stick to beat businesses, but will, where necessary, offer support and advice on how best to improve fire safety arrangements. In doing so, they will take account of measures which are proportionate and reasonable to the identified risk.
- Fire and Rescue Authorities will take enforcement action in those cases where a serious risk exists and is not being managed.

*[If pressed:*

*In serious cases, penalties of a fine of up to £5,000 for each offence on summary conviction (in a Magistrates Court) or an unlimited fine or up to two years imprisonment, or both on conviction or indictment in a Crown Court or above.]*

#### Each FRA delivers its responsibilities duties under the RRO differently – is this what was intended?

- Experience has shown that enforcement activity and uniformity of approach does vary across Fire and Rescue Authorities. Whilst it is a matter of local discretion how a Fire and Rescue Authority best delivers its statutory responsibilities to provide advice and enforcement, we believe that guidance on the intent of the Order may help increase consistency of approach.
- We have published an Enforcers' Guide to help FRAs better understand their duties under the Order, and for the public to better understand the intent of specific aspects of the Order.

#### Why have CLG waited until now to publish guidance for FRAS as enforcers?

- This is part of the planned on going rollout of information/guidance relating to RRO, and takes account of FRAs' experience of enforcing the Order during its first year of operation.
- The content of the guide has been subject to discussions with the Chief Fire Officers' Association; Fire Brigades' Union; Association of Building Engineers; DCMS; HSE; Business and Community Safety Forum; Local Authorities and others.

#### There are going to be more fires as a result of this legislation and the abolition of fire certificates.

- The Order aims to ensure that businesses actively pursue fire safety in their premises and take responsibility for the safety of their staff and others visiting their premises. We believe that businesses are best placed to consider the risks that may exist in individual premises and to take action to put in place appropriate fire safety measures.
- Fire certificates represented a prescriptive and time-bound approach to fire safety. The RRO represents a proactive approach to managing fire risks in all holiday accommodation providers, not just those designated by the 1971 Fire Precautions Act.

