

## Response ID ANON-TX3B-UQH5-4

Submitted to SFRS – Long-Term Vision

Submitted on 2021-07-18 23:42:01

### About you

1 To help us analyse all feedback, please tell us if you are responding as a:

voluntary organisation

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation please state the name of the organisation here:

Scottish Islands Federation

If you are responding as an individual please provide the first part of your postcode e.g G77, EH1::

### Survey questions

2 To what extent do you think our long-term draft vision is the right future vision for SFRS?

Agree

What could we do to improve the draft vision for you? :

Scottish Islands Federation (SIF) welcomes this draft vision and the commitment within it to taking a flexible approach to embrace the differing needs of communities. Too often, 'one size fits all' regulations and services are adopted, based on evidence from situations far removed from the reality of life and work in island communities and in doing so create challenges and inefficiencies that undermine successful long-term delivery.

The strong commitment to engagement is also welcome and SIF would support further discussion with island fire services, many of which are run by volunteers, and if not already considered, an Island Community Impact Assessment consultation, to ensure the differing and changing requirements within an island context are fully reflected within the vision and proposals for its delivery.

3 Looking at the four strategic intents we've identified for achieving the long-term vision, to what extent do you agree with each of them?

3. Looking at the four strategic intents we've identified for achieving the long-term vision, to what extent do you agree with each of them? - Staff are safer, are better supported, are more satisfied and empowered:

Strongly agree

3. Looking at the four strategic intents we've identified for achieving the long-term vision, to what extent do you agree with each of them? - Our communities are safer and their wellbeing is improved:

Strongly agree

3. Looking at the four strategic intents we've identified for achieving the long-term vision, to what extent do you agree with each of them? - We are more adaptable in responding to changing risks across and between communities:

Strongly agree

3. Looking at the four strategic intents we've identified for achieving the long-term vision, to what extent do you agree with each of them? - Our wider contribution to Scotland and our communities is recognised:

Strongly agree

4 Looking at the eight proposed priorities we've identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each them?

Looking at the eight proposed priorities we've identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each them? - Our service delivery model will meet Scotland's changing needs:

Strongly agree

Looking at the eight proposed priorities we've identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each them? - We will be innovative in our use of technology, data and information to change how we work:

Strongly agree

Looking at the eight proposed priorities we've identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each them? - We will be an organisation that works in agile and smart ways:

Strongly agree

Looking at the eight proposed priorities we've identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each them? - We will invest in developing leaders throughout the Service and train our staff to the highest standards:

Strongly agree

Looking at the eight proposed priorities we've identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each them? - Partnership working will be at the core of how we work:

Strongly agree

Looking at the eight proposed priorities we've identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each them? - We will value different views and experiences:

Strongly agree

Looking at the eight proposed priorities we've identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each them? - We will be driven by a deeper understanding of the needs of our communities:

Strongly agree

Looking at the eight proposed priorities we've identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each them? - We will be a more environmentally sustainable organisation:

Strongly agree

5 Are there any other comments you would like to make about our draft vision?

Are there any other comments you would like to make about our draft vision?:

In general terms we fully support the vision, the strategic intents, and the priorities. Our concern is around the extent to which the situation on the ground in island communities is embedded within the vision, and what it will mean in practice for island fire services. In particular, many rely on volunteers and may struggle with capacity and sustainability. This is a challenge that needs tackling if the islands are to realise the vision in a meaningful way and not be left behind.

Some insights from around our island network are included below:

- Recognition within the vision and its implementation that islands are different to the mainland and also to each other would be strongly supported.
- For example, many islands don't have streetlights and therefore site lighting and personal torches are vital safety equipment. In Tiree, for example, there is a specific issue with chimney fires, while in Coll, it is heath fires. In Burray, and many other islands, there is concern about the escalation in campfires as a result of the significant increase in staycations.
- Tailoring training and equipment to meet the specific needs of island communities. For example, there wouldn't be a need to be trained in railway procedures or fighting fire in high rise buildings, but safety procedure around livestock would be useful. Also, ensuring training is accessible. The Isle of Eigg lost its fire service a number of years ago, partly due to difficulties around volunteer training.
- Resourcing emergency services should reflect the impact on the community (even if the population is small) and the high number of seasonal visitors that come to the islands and not simply the census population. Also, having systems in place to ensure that equipment servicing, and deliveries are carried out in a timely manner for island stations.
- Many island fire services rely on volunteers and the needs and capacity are quite distinct from those that are fully staffed. Management procedures should acknowledge that volunteers are just that and cannot be expected to carry the same administrative burdens as full time staff.
- While some islands are able to sustain a good turnover of volunteers, others, particularly those with small and ageing populations, have an ever-increasing struggle to do so.
- Cover during the day when many volunteers are working and may be inaccessible can create a vulnerable situation, exacerbated by the limitations of travel to and within many islands. Resourcing and supporting island services which may not be able to call on other crews for backup is important.
- Island communities sit in the direct path of climate change impact, and many are already feeling it. There are enormous implications for the future of island communities, and how to adapt and mitigate and we would like to see this reflected within the long-term vision.

More about you

6 Your age

56-70

7 Your sex

Female

8 Trans - do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history? (for example, non-binary, trans man, trans woman)

No

9 Your sexual orientation

Your sexual orientation:

10 Disability - Do you have any of the following, which have lasted, or are expected to last, at least 12 months?

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No condition

11 Ethnicity - what is your Ethnic Group?

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If you answered other, please specify here::

## 12 Religion or Belief

Religion or Belief:

Denomination or school::

## 13 Caring Responsibilities

Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either: long-term physical / mental ill-health / disability; or problems related to old age?:

No

## 14 Care Experienced

Care experienced means you are or were formally looked after by a local authority, in the family home (with support from social services or a social worker) or elsewhere, for example, in foster care, residential/secure care, or kinship care (with family friends or relatives) and you have not yet reached your 26th birthday.: