

Fire protection and prevention work of the Fire Services Department

The Audit Commission ("Audit") conducted a review of the Fire Services Department ("FSD")'s fire protection and prevention work.

2. The Committee noted the following findings from the Director of Audit's Report:

- in 2012-2013, no inspection certificate was submitted to support that the statutorily required annual inspection had been conducted on fire service installations and equipment ("FSIs") installed in 20 690 (44% of 47 000) buildings;
- of 7 662 reported cases of defects in major FSIs in buildings, 67% had remained unresolved for over 100 days;
- from 2008 to 2012, there were on average 26 494 unwanted alarms a year. Unwanted alarms had taxed heavily on FSD resources and induced negative consequences on the community. In 2012, 498 buildings each had 10 or more unwanted alarm cases; and
- due to incomplete data input and system bugs, the FSD had not used its computer system to monitor the compliance with annual inspection requirement of FSIs of licensed premises and ventilating systems.

3. The Committee did not hold any public hearing on this subject. Instead, it asked for written responses regarding monitoring FSIs in buildings; monitoring licensed premises; monitoring ventilating systems; and handling complaints about fire safety. The replies from the **Director of Fire Services** are in *Appendix 32*.

4. The Committee wishes to be kept informed of the progress made in implementing the various recommendations made by Audit.