

From: [LeBlanc, Nathalie](#) on behalf of [LaFleche, Paul T](#)
To: [Langille, Kim E](#)
Cc: [Pottie Bunge, Valerie A](#); [LaFleche, Paul T](#); [Mason, Paul](#); [MacKenzie, Doug S](#)
Subject: Standing Committee on Public Accounts - follow up response
Date: May 19, 2023 12:08:37 PM
Attachments: [Observation #40 revised.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Langille:

Thank for your email and your assistance with regard to the Office of the Fire Marshall's May 17, 2023 appearance at the Pubic Accounts Committee. As per your email below please see the following updates relating to the information you have requested:

1. The attached spreadsheet identifies the locations of the twelve properties that were identified as past their inspection due date.
2. The Fire Marshall is working with their office database manager to provide the current number of overdue inspections. We will provide this information to you early next week.

Respectfully,

Paul T. LaFleche
Deputy Minister

Sample Picked	Building Name	Street Number	Street Name	Community Name	County Name	Inspection Date	Inspect before due date	Result	Typical items for letter of non-compliance
2	Dykeland Lodge	124	Cottage	Windsor	Hants County	2020-09-29	No	Non-Compliant Letter Issued	Request documentation on emergency lighting
3	Villa Acadienne	8403	Highway 1	Meteghan	Digby County	2020-09-02	No	Compliant Letter Issued	
8	R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home Corporation	64	Pleasant	Antigonish	Antigonish County	2021-09-10	No	Non-Compliant Letter Issued	Remove door wedges from fire seperation door
10	Johnson Building	1672	Granville	Halifax	Halifax County	2021-02-22	No	On Site Non-Compliant Letter Issued	Submit final verification report on sprinkler renovation
13	Sydney Senior Care Home Living Ltd.	35	C Levatte	Lingan Road	Cape Breton County	2021-07-19	No	Compliant Letter Issued	
16	Oakwood Terrace	10	Mount Hope	Dartmouth	Halifax County	2021-10-26	No	Non-Compliant Letter Issued (Custom)	Staff to complete monthly inspection on fire shutter in electrial room
19	Cape Breton Community Housing Association	185	Connaught	Glace Bay	Cape Breton County	2020-01-15	No	Compliant Letter Issued	
20	All Saints' Hospital	10	Princess	Springhill	Cumberland County	2020-09-01	No	Non-Compliant Letter Issued	Fire extinguisher obstruction and maintain clearance around fire extinguishers
21	Ivey's Terrace Nursing Home	11	Centennial	Trenton	Pictou County	2021-02-11	No	Non-Compliant Letter Issued	18inch clearance to be maintained around sprinkler head in the storage room
23	Kings County Family Resource Center	503	Main	Kentville	Kings County	2021-08-10	No	Compliant Letter Issued	
24	MacNeil Seniors	10	MacNeil	Yarmouth	Yarmouth County	2021-11-24	No	Compliant Letter Issued	
28	Municipality of the County of Colchester	1	Church	Truro	Colchester County	2021-03-01	No	Compliant Letter Issued	

From: [LeBlanc, Nathalie](#) on behalf of [LaFleche, Paul T](#)
To: [Langille, Kim E](#)
Cc: [Pottie Bunge, Valerie A](#); [LaFleche, Paul T](#)
Subject: PAC response re: OFM Inspections
Date: May 23, 2023 2:17:02 PM
Importance: High

Dear Ms. Langille:

Further to your May 18th email the OFM has reviewed its database to ascertain the current number of overdue inspections. There are currently 145 overdue inspections in the province which represents approximately two percent of required inspections tracked in the Office of the Fire Marshall database.

Respectfully,

Paul T. LaFleche
Deputy Minister

June 1, 2023

Hon. Kelly Regan
MLA, Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Legislative Committees Office
One Government Place, 2nd Fl
1700 Granville Street
PO Box 2630 Station M
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

Received LCO
June 1, 2023

Dear Hon. Kelly Regan:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts regarding the 2023 Report of the Auditor General – Provincial Fire Safety Management: Office of the Fire Marshal.

Please find below the responses to information that was requested by the Committee, this is in addition to the information previously provided on May 23, 2023.

Request 1: What are those four large public housing units that were missing from the inspection list provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal to the Auditor General? Where are they?

Response: There were four large public housing units that were not included in the inspection list provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal to the Auditor General. All four properties are inspected and included in the system of inspections by Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency (HRFE) under an MOU with the Office of the Fire Marshal. As these properties are included in Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency (HRFE) system of inspections, they would not generally be included in the list of the Office of the Fire Marshals inspections.

The four (4) properties were:

1. Millwood Place Senior Citizen Center
114 Millwood Drive, Middle Sackville, NS
2. Sackville Manor
52 Old Beaver Bank Road, Lower Sackville, NS
(Actual Civic # 51 Old Beaver Bank Road)
3. Ida May Manor *
110 Lyons Avenue, Halifax NS
4. Alderney Manor
1 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, NS

*Property address provided in error to Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency (HRFE) for confirmation of inspection was 101 Lyons Avenue, Halifax NS. Since confirmed that Ida May Manor, 110 Lyons Avenue, Halifax NS is included in HRFE system of inspections.

Request 2: Provide the budgets over the past five years regarding the department (Office of the Fire Marshal). How did the funding or staff levels change when this office was moved from the former Department of Labour and Advanced Education?

Response:

5 Year Budget Authority:

Office of the Fire Marshall (summary by Category)

	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
	Authority	Authority	Authority	Authority	Authority	Authority
<i>Over / Underabsorption</i>	2,768,000	2,599,000	2,508,000	2,513,000	2,497,000	2,473,000

Office of the Fire Marshal Approved FTE's:

Labour and Advanced Education 2013-14	Municipal Affairs and Housing 2014-15
16.2	18.2

Office of the Fire Marshal Authorized Budget:

Labour and Advanced Education 2013-14	Municipal Affairs and Housing 2014-15
\$1,666,000	\$2,597,000

Request 3: Of the four public housing buildings that weren't on the office's internal list, one wasn't located in HRM - What was the age of the building that wasn't located in HRM?

Response: Ida May Manor, 110 Lyons Avenue, Halifax NS was initially thought to be missing from the Office of the Fire Marshals and Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency system of inspections due to an inversion of the civic number 101 vs 110. A Deputy Fire Marshal recently completed an inspection of the facility, including confirming the address of the facility. Building Maintenance staff during the inspection confirmed that the facility was 12 years old.

If you or the committee have any questions or concerns regarding this additional information, please feel free to me at any time.

Sincerely,



Paul LaFleche
Deputy Minister
Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing

- c. Doug MacKenzie, Fire Marshal, Office of the Fire Marshal
Valerie Pottie Bunge, Associate Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
Paul Mason, Executive Director, Emergency Management Office

October 13, 2023

Kim Langille
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Kim.langille@novascotia.ca

Received LCO
October 13, 2023

Dear Ms. Langille:

RE: Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Thank you for your letter of September 28th, 2023, in which you indicate that the committee is looking for clarification on the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housings response to Request 2.

- Please explain what is specifically meant by over/under absorption, and please indicate which of these (overabsorption or under absorption) applied in each case.

Within the table previously provided to the Committee; the annual budget allocations for the Office of the Fire Marshall are listed for the identified years. The over/under absorption wording would refer to any annual surpluses or deficits and is not relevant to the budgetary allocations contained in the table.

- It appears that the budget had a significant increase when it moved from Labour and Advanced Education to Municipal Affairs and Housing. As it is indicated that only 2FTEs were added, please explain what the increase is related to.

The table below provides the Budget and FTE authority for the Office of the Fire Marshal in 2013-14 with LAE and in 2014-15 with DMAH.

	LAE 2013-14	DMAH 2014-15
Budget Authority	\$1,666,000	\$2,597,000
Approved FTEs	16.2	18.2

The details of the dollar variance between the two fiscal years are detailed in the table below.

Variance 2013-14 to 2014-15:	\$931,000
Fire Prevention Education/Promotion Program	\$100,000
Fire Services Grant (HazMat, other training)	\$120,000
Professional Services for operational assessment/risk management	\$100,000
Set, promote 24/7 on-call availability system	\$ 50,000
Standby	\$ 50,000
Funding for staff (2 new positions, reclass of positions and operational costs to support staff)	\$511,000

If the committee have any questions or concerns regarding this additional information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Byron Rafuse, FCPA
Deputy Minister

- c. Valerie Pottie Bunge, Associate Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
Doug MacKenzie, Fire Marshal, Office of the Fire Marshal
Paul Mason, Executive Director, Emergency Management Office

January 8, 2024

Kim Langille
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Kim.langille@novascotia.ca

Received LCO
January 9, 2024

Dear Ms. Langille:

RE: Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 2023, in which you indicate that the committee is looking for additional clarification on the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housings response to Request 2 – re overabsorption / under absorption. Apologies for the delayed response.

The additional details re: overabsorption / under absorption of the Office of the Fire Marshal's 5 year budget are detailed in the table below.

Year	YTD Exp + Commitment	Budget Authority	Overages / Underages
2023-24	\$1,187,930.00*	\$2,768,000.00	NA
2022-23	\$2,375,225.00	\$2,599,000.00	Underages
2021-22	\$5,765,286.00**	\$2,508,000.00	Overages
2020-21	\$2,449,663.00	\$2,513,000.00	Underages
2019-20	\$2,297,548.00	\$2,497,000.00	Underages
2018-19	\$2,165,556.00	\$2,473,000.00	Underages

*As of October 27, 2023

**Grants & Contributions \$3,420K 'one-time grants' of \$10K to Volunteer Fire Departments

If the committee has any questions or concerns regarding this additional information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Byron Rafuse, FCPA
Deputy Minister

- c. Valerie Pottie Bunge, Associate Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
Paul Mason, Executive Director, Emergency Management Office
Doug MacKenzie, Fire Marshal, Office of the Fire Marshal