



Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
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Your Ref:  
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Date: 9 May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

## **MALICIOUS ACTIVATIONS AND WILFUL FIRE-RAISING**

Following a sharp increase in malicious alarm activations and fire raising within local school premises we are taking this opportunity to make all parents and/or carers aware of the issues and the subsequent impact that these actions can have on both the school, its pupils, and the wider community. In support of Angus school's partnership working the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Police Scotland and your Local Authority Education Department aim to reduce the risk of harm to communities, this includes those attending school premises. Having experienced similar escalations and disruption in other Tayside schools we feel it is important that you are made aware of these issues at the earliest opportunity in order that they can be addressed where appropriate.

We would ask that you take the time to speak with your dependant/s and discuss the consequences of the following actions and behaviours.

### **CURRENT ISSUES AND CONSEQUENCES**

- **Disruption to the schools working day-** Continued and repeated malicious activations/ fire raising negatively impacts both the school Teaching/Support staff and the pupils themselves as valuable teaching time is lost and lessons are disrupted due to the need to evacuate and investigate each alarm activation.
- **Social Media challenges-** Unfortunately we have seen an increasing number of challenges posted on social media platforms such as "TikTok". These challenges encourage viewers to complete actions which result in the activation of fire alarms within school premises.

<https://www.tiktok.com/@rebreaknews2/video/7090217298279009541? t=8S0B9cAh4FB& r=1>

We would ask that you reinforce the message that participating in these challenges is not acceptable.

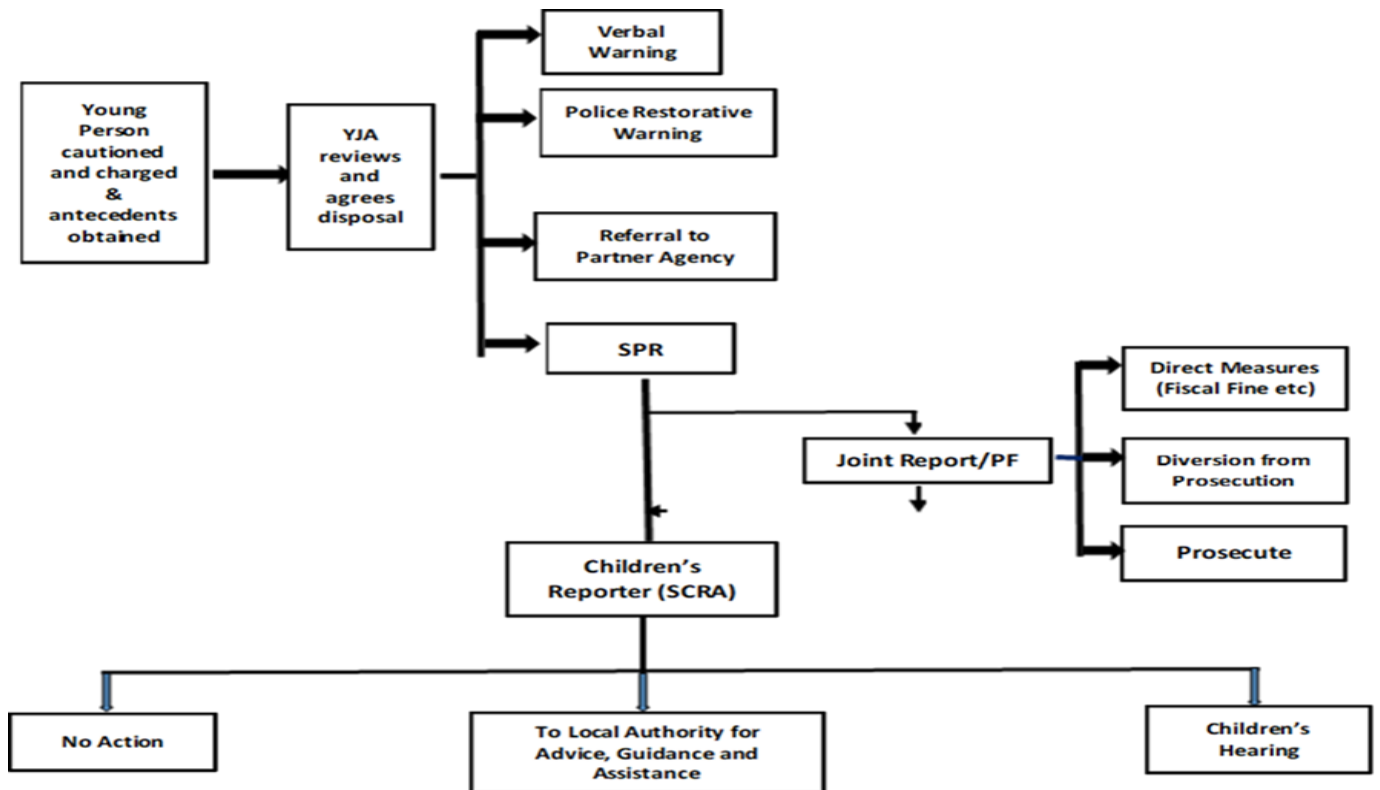
- **Risk of injury-** There is a high risk that these challenges could directly or indirectly result in injury and/or serious harm to those individuals participating in them. These potentially life changing consequences may not be fully understood by your dependant(s), and we would ask that you emphasise this point as part of your discussions.
- **SFRS Resources-** Fire appliances mobilised to malicious activations are committed to respond and investigate the cause of all alarms and are therefore either delayed, or in some cases unable

to attend other confirmed incidents which may require Fire Service assistance. This puts an unnecessary strain on resources and the ability to respond quickly to them.

## FURTHER ACTION

In cases where investigations by school staff utilising witness statements and CCTV subsequently provide Police Scotland and the Youth Justice Assessor with evidence of serious or repeat offending there are various options that are at their disposal.

When dealing with youth offending (as below) all crimes are subject to the following review by a Youth Justice Assessor



If you have any questions in relation to the content detailed within this letter or wish further information, please do not hesitate to contact your local SFRS Community Action Team via the details below.

Yours faithfully

Lewis Duncan  
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