

Circular number	22/2008	Date issued	20 May 2008
This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	The Government response to the consultation on the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework and the 2008/11 National Framework have been published.		

Publication of the Government Response to the Consultation on the 2008/11 Fire and Rescue Service National Framework, and the 2008/11 National Framework

Issued by:

Talia Watson

Programmes, Finance and Performance Division

Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

Summary

The consultation on the 2008/11 Fire and Rescue Service National Framework ran for 12 weeks and closed on 6 February. The Government response to the consultation and the 2008/11 Fire and Rescue Service National Framework have now been published on the Department's website.

For further information, contact:

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Government's response to the consultation for the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework for 2008/11 and the National Framework for 2008/11 were published today (20 May 2008). Both documents are available on CLG's website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/nationalframeworkresponse> and <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/nationalframework200811>.
- 1.2 The National Framework sets out the Government's priorities and objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service, which has statutory force under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. The Act places a duty on the Secretary of State to consult on any changes to the National Framework.
- 1.3 The consultation on the 2008/11 National Framework ran for 12 weeks and closed on 6 February 2008. We received 47 responses to the consultation most of which were generally positive to the proposed changes. Authorities have welcomed the move to a three-year document which ties in with their budgetary cycles, as well as the streamlined structure – reducing from 9 to 4 chapters.
- 1.4 Many of the comments made in response to the draft Framework consultation have been incorporated in to the final version. Where we have not made changes to the Framework we have explained why in the Government response.
- 1.5 The 2008/11 National Framework is divided into four chapters:
- o **Chapter 1 – Prevention, Protection and Response** – covers the core business of Fire and Rescue Authorities in analysing risks and taking action to meet and mitigate the effect of those risks.
 - o **Chapter 2 – Resilience** – covers the delivery of the key resilience programmes and the actions authorities need to take to ensure they are fully equipped to meet the demands of the resilience agenda.
 - o **Chapter 3 – Diversity and Workforce** – covers the importance of mainstreaming diversity in all levels of the Fire and Rescue Service and workforce development, training and health and safety.
 - o **Chapter 4 – Governance and Improvement** – covers institutions in place to support the delivery of Fire and Rescue Authority business, the new Local Government White Paper framework including Local Area Agreements, Performance Assessment and Finance.
- 1.6 For any queries regarding the Government response or the National Framework please contact Talia Watson at talia.watson@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

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