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| This circular is | <b>For information</b>   | No response required |                        |
| This circular is | <b>Relevant to the National Framework</b>  |                      |                        |
| Status           | <b>This circular informs Fire and Rescue Authorities and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service of progress with the Fire and Resilience Programme.</b> |                      |                        |

# Fire and Resilience Programme Highlights – December 2008 / January 2009

## Issued by:

**Stephen Cloughton**

**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

This continues the series of monthly 'highlights' notes to inform Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) of progress with the Programme.

## For further information, contact:

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## 1.0 FiReControl

### RESCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

- 1.1 The new timetable for FiReControl has been announced and all fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) have been given information on their new proposed cut-over date. FRAs are currently conducting a process to assess the impact of the rescheduling on their control room's ability to continue to operate during their respective period of delay. The first stage identified those FRAs for which rescheduling would have a significant impact and we are now carrying out a follow-up exercise to gain more detailed information. The outcome of this exercise will be to identify and validate additional costs which may be eligible for funding under "new burdens" principles.

### PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- 1.2 The proposed suite of Performance Standards to be included in the FiReControl contracts was released to FRAs for comment on 9 December. The closing date for feedback is 2 February 2009.

### BUSINESS CASE

- 1.3 The FiReControl National Business Case, Part 2 was published on 26 November 2008. Part 1, the Regional Case, was published earlier in the summer. CLG is now carrying out a formal consultation on Parts 1 & 2 which closes on 27 February. A consolidated Business Case, which takes into account all the feedback received, will be published later this year.

## 2.0 Firelink

### ROLL-OUT UPDATE

- 2.1 **Roll-out Phase A - Network Resilience & Legacy Control Rooms:** The network resilience build is now progressing better. All scheduled work on English control rooms is complete.
- 2.2 **Roll-out Phase B – Operational Vehicle Fleet:** Operational roll-out started in the South West region on 24 November 2008 and now involves FRAs, across five (English) regions. Three FRAs in the North East region have completed installations and are now live on Firelink. County Durham and Darlington was the first scheduled FRA to complete. A press release covering this can be viewed at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1106938>

## 3.0 New Dimension

- 3.1 Following the initial consultation with FRAs on the transfer of ownership of New Dimension assets in late 2007 (Fire Service Circular 51-2007), CLG will shortly publish a consultation response outlining those issues raised by FRAs along with our responses to their comments. Accompanying this will be a revised version of the draft Transfer Agreement for FRS comment, which begins a second round of consultation with FRAs on the transfer.

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