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

Fire and Resilience Programme Highlights – August/September 2009

Issued by:

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FRS Development 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 London Fire Commissioner
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.

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1.0 New Dimension

TRANSFER OF ASSETS

- 1.1 As the delivery of the New Dimension project has drawn to an end, CLG has been increasingly focussed on the long-term management plans for New Dimension, to ensure that the new capabilities are fully integrated into FRS core business and that standards are maintained to guarantee national interoperability over the life of the equipment. Long term arrangements have focussed on four areas:
- Physical maintenance of the vehicles and equipment
 - Assurance that the capabilities continue fit for purpose
 - Funding for the above
 - Transfer of the assets from CLG to Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs)
- 1.2 The first three of these are in place. In regard to the transfer of New Dimension assets, following a consultation with FRSs earlier this year on the transfer proposals, the Department has now finalised the Transfer of Ownership Agreement. Fire Service Circular 59/2009, issued on 22 September, invites FRAs to formally consider this Agreement at their relevant Committee meetings and confirm whether they are content to sign up. We have asked that FRAs respond to the Department by **31 December 2009**. It is intended that actual enactment of the transfer (the date the assets will belong to the FRAs) will be undertaken early in 2010.
- 1.3 As outlined in Circular 59/2009, although New Dimension vehicles and equipment are currently owned by CLG, this is not a function which CLG can continue to perform in the medium term. We hope that FRAs will feel able to sign up to the Agreement. This has always been the aim of the New Dimension project and it makes most sense in terms of long-term management of the assets.
- 1.4 A copy of the Circular can be located at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fsc592009>

2.0 FiReControl

- 2.1 The fitting out of the West Midlands regional control centre (RCC) has now been completed. This completes the fit out programme for the four RCCs in the first batch – South West, North East and East Midlands being the other three – scheduled to go live and begin taking calls in spring 2011.
- 2.2 Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service has begun a pilot of the mobile data terminals that will be in the cabs of appliances and will display data from the FiReControl system. This is going well and the lessons learned from the pilot will ensure that the main rollout goes smoothly.

- 2.3** Early station end equipment is now being installed in local fire stations. Feedback has been positive. Cheshire FRS, for example, has reported that the equipment is meeting expectations and the standard of installation work is high.
- 2.4** Solution establishment workshops (SEWs) are being held at the premises of the main system supplier, EADS. We are very grateful to the many FRS staff who have been involved for their commitment to identifying solutions for meeting business needs. The SEWs have also looked at the Intergraph product as an alternative fallback solution for the mobilization system supplied by Ericsson. This work was continued in a series of component focused workshops during September.
- 2.5** All FRSs with the Data Capture Migration Toolkit (DCMT) have now received the maintenance release 1 (MR1) for it. MR1 contains printer drivers and an updated version of the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG). It also enables future updates of the NLPG to be loaded. London, Avon and Dorset FRSs trialled this in advance of its wider release.
- 2.6** The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) has sent a communication to local authority land and property custodians encouraging them to bring their records, and particularly the positional accuracy in their data, up to standard. This is in the interests of both FiReControl and the local authorities as it allows the data to be used more widely.
- 3.0 Firelink**
- 3.1** Firelink radios have now been rolled out into over 6,900 of the 8,440 fire vehicles in England, Scotland and Wales. In England all the legacy control rooms have had Firelink installed, and the last of the 46 FRS vehicles are being fitted with the radio equipment.
- 3.2** Rollout of Firelink into fire vehicles began in Scotland in July, installations began in London in August, while the fit out in Wales will begin in the autumn.
- 3.3** Six regions in England are now substantially complete on Firelink. They are:
- North East
 - South West
 - East
 - North West
 - South East
 - Yorkshire & Humber

This leaves East Midlands, West Midlands and London still in progress.

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