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This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Not relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular informs Fire and Rescue Authorities and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service of the establishment of a Protective Security Strategy for the Fire & Rescue Service as part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy		

Implementation of a Fire & Rescue Service Protective Security Strategy

Issued by:

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Office of the Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser

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
London Fire Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

**Heads of Human Resources
Heads of Information Technology
Heads of Property & Estates
Protective Security Lead Officer**

Summary

This circular informs Fire and Rescue Authorities of the implementation of a Fire & Rescue Protective Security Strategy as part of the United Kingdom's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST)

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Implementation of a Fire & Rescue Service Protective Security Strategy

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The United Kingdom Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) comprises four key work streams, namely PREVENT, PURSUIT, PROTECT and PREPARE.
- 1.2 All Government Departments and their agencies are required to contribute to CONTEST. The PROTECT work stream identifies a requirement to reduce the vulnerability of the national infrastructure to terrorism and includes protecting UK borders, the critical national infrastructure and crowded places.
- 1.3 The Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) forms part of the Emergency Services Sector (ES) of the National Infrastructure. The Emergency Services Sector comprises the Police Service, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
- 1.4 The Fire and Rescue Service is also a Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) asset owner.
- 1.5 The PROTECT work stream is aimed at the reduction of vulnerabilities to terrorism within the national infrastructure. The strategy requires a reduction in vulnerability in three key areas, those of Personnel, Physical and Information Security.

2.0 Reducing vulnerability within the Emergency Services Sector

- 2.1 Following the outcomes of a protective security review of the Emergency Services sector by the Centre for the Protection of the National Infrastructure (CPNI) a work plan has been agreed comprising the following:
 - Review existing personnel security policies within the ES
 - Establish a Departmental Security Officer (DSO) within the ES
 - Implement a structured personnel security strategy linked to the Cabinet Office Review of Personnel Security, CPNI guidance and the recommendations of the Cabinet Office Security Policy Framework (SPF)
 - Establish a process for measuring the effectiveness of protective security
 - Conduct a comprehensive review of policy and procedures for the handling of protectively marked materials

3.0 Fire & Rescue Protective Security Strategy

- 3.1 A protective security implementation strategy has been agreed between the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser and the Chief Fire Officers Association. The strategy comprises three key work streams and seven deliverables as listed below:

Work streams

1. Physical security
2. Personnel Security
3. Information security

Deliverables

- PS WS 1 Protective Security communications strategy & governance model
- PS WS 2 Introduction of National Vetting policy and guidance
- PS WS 3 Introduction of Security Policy framework
- PS WS 4 Introduction of Personnel Security policy and guidance
- PS WS 5 Introduction of a Security Awareness programme
- PS WS 6 Introduction of a Protective Security Performance management system
- PS WS 7 Electronic security audit of UKFRS IT systems with the objective of moving towards GSI accreditation

4.0 Governance arrangements

- 4.1 Communities and Local Government have established a Fire and Rescue Security Adviser within the Office of the Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser (CFRA), but embedded within the Departmental Security Officer (DSO) team.
- 4.2 The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) has agreed to the establishment of a Protective Security sub group.
- 4.3 A CFOA - nominated Regional Security Liaison Officer (RSLO) has been established in each CFOA region in England, with similar arrangements established in the Devolved Administrations.
- 4.4 Regional Protective Security Steering groups are being established to oversee the implementation of the deliverables locally. The constitution of such groups is for local determination, but it is suggested that the inclusion of lead officers in respect of protective security, personnel, human resources, information technology, fire control, interagency liaison officers, national resilience assurance officers and external agencies such as police counter terrorist security advisers (CTSA) and regional control centre (RCC) directors be considered.

5.0 Definitions of Protective Security

5.1 Personnel Security

This will include the development of advice, guidance, policies and procedures to assist the Fire & Rescue Service in managing the risk of staff or contractors exploiting their legitimate access to an organisation's assets for unauthorised purposes. In this context 'assets' refers to anything the organisations feel is of value, such as its employees, premises, systems and information. Those who seek to exploit their legitimate access are termed 'insiders'. It also includes National Security vetting which incorporates advice, guidance, policies and procedures to ensure the appropriate level of vetting is established within the FRS and an effective monitoring and 'after care' is maintained.

5.2 Physical Security

This will include the development of advice, guidance, policies and procedures in respect of reducing the vulnerabilities of the Fire and Rescue Service to unauthorised access and use of physical assets, including buildings, vehicles, equipment and plant.

5.3 Information Security

This will include the development of advice, guidance, policies and procedures in respect of reducing the vulnerabilities of the FRS to unauthorised access to, storage, and transmission of both hard copy and electronic data including the protective marking of materials. This will include the aspiration to adopt HMG Security Policy framework requirements.

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