

Circular number	<b>74/2009</b>	Date issued	<b>16 December 2009</b>
This circular is	<b>For information</b>		
This circular is	<b>Relevant to the National Framework</b>		
Status	<b>This circular accompanies the CLG response to the consultation on Fire &amp; Resilience Programme in-service management. It also announces new appointments to the Board of Firebuy Ltd.</b>		

# In-Service Management Consultation and new Firebuy Board Appointments

## Issued by:

**Crispin Tuckley**  
Fire & Rescue Service Finance and Performance

## 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:

**The Chair of the Local Authority Controlled  
Company  
The Regional Control Centre Director**

## Summary

This Circular is to highlight the publication of CLG's response to the consultation on the future in-service management of the Fire & Resilience Programme. It also announces new appointments to the Board of Firebuy Ltd.

## For further information, contact:

**Crispin Tuckley**  
**Communities and Local Government**  
3/E2 Eland House  
Bressenden Place, London  
SW1E 5DU

Direct line **0303 444 2953**  
E-mail [fsed6@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fsed6@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Website [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

### 1.0 Background

1.1 FRS Circular 36/2009, dated 25 June 2009, informed the Fire & Rescue Service of a Ministerial Statement on the future of national procurement in the Fire & Rescue Service and Firebuy Ltd. This announced the outcome of a review that demonstrated the continuing need to drive procurement efficiency at a national level in the FRS and that, subject to the outcome of a consultation with the FRS, in future the national procurement role should be carried out in a larger organisation also responsible for the management of the Fire and Resilience Programme service contracts.

### 2.0 Consultation on Fire & Resilience Programme In-Service Management

2.1 FRS Circular 40/2009, dated 13 July 2009, announced a 12 week consultation seeking views on which body should manage certain Fire and Resilience Programme functions as they became operational, including the role of the non-departmental public body (NDPB) it was proposed should succeed Firebuy. The consultation closed on 5 October.

2.2 Following consideration of the responses received, and informed by ongoing discussions with key stakeholders, the proposals for taking this forward in the light of responses to the consultation have now been published on the Department's website, at

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

2.3 In summary these are that:

- The service contracts for Firelink and FiReControl should in future be managed by the NDPB based on and incorporating the current Firebuy
- A final decision about which organisation should carry out the future national assurance role has yet to be taken and further consideration of the options identified in the consultation, the nature of the task, and the appropriate timing for its transfer will be developed with the sector as soon as possible
- Further appointments – in addition to the independent Board members to be appointed shortly – will be made to the NDPB board to represent key stakeholder interests, and further arrangements for wider stakeholder involvement will be developed by the NDPB
- CLG will now work with key stakeholders on a transition plan for the Programme, moving from current delivery arrangements to final in-service management arrangements

### 3.0 Appointments to the Board of the NDPB succeeding Firebuy Ltd

3.1 The terms of office of the existing Board of Firebuy came to an end in November 2009. A recruitment process was held over the autumn for a new chair and four new board members for Firebuy and, subject to the outcome of the in-service management consultation, to lead the change process from the current structure to a new organisation with a wider remit.

3.2 The chair and board member positions were advertised in September and generated a very large response. Following interviews in October/early November by a CLG–chaired selection panel, including sector and independent representatives, the following appointments are being made:

- Chair: Peter Holland
- Board Members: Chris Hetherington; Robert Light; Jane Moorhouse; Peter Spencer

## In-Service Management Consultation and new Firebuy Board Appointments

---

- 3.3** The new Board has considerable public and private sector experience of the management of major procurements and contracts, and of corporate governance and the management of change. Further details on the appointments, including terms and conditions, are available in the CLG press notice announcing the appointments <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/fire/1415468> .
- 3.4** These five appointments will take effect immediately. It is proposed that they are followed by the appointment of three further Board members by March 2010 representing key stakeholders: the Chief Fire Officers' Association; the Local Government Association; and the Local Authority Controlled Companies/London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, which manage the Regional Control Centres.
- 3.5** In addition to direct representation on the Board, it is also recognised that the new body will also need effective arrangements for engaging stakeholders in the business of the organisation, such as the contracts it will be managing. The NDPB will therefore develop, with the sector, arrangements for stakeholder input to the key activities of the organisation.

**Crispin Tuckley**

**FRS Finance and Performance Division**