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| Circular number | 11/2010 | Date issued | 23 March 2010 |
| This circular is | For information | No response required | |
| This circular is | Relevant to the National Framework | | |
| Status | This circular is to remind FRSs that, as planned, the Fire Gateway website will be closing on 31 March 2010. | | |

Closure of the Fire Gateway web-site on 31 March 2010

Issued by:

Linda Hurford

Fire and Rescue Service 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 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 circular is to remind FRSs that, as planned, the Fire Gateway website will be closing on 31 March 2010. It confirms arrangements for the closure of the site and provides information on the relocation of relevant information.

For further information, contact:

**Linda Hurford
Fire & Rescue Development Division
Communities & Local Government
3rd Floor, Zone D1
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU**

Direct line **0303 444 2936**

Fax

E-mail Linda.hurford@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Website www.communities.gov.uk

Closure of the Fire Gateway web-site on 31 March 2010

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Fire Gateway website was designed and developed as a single point of access to the Fire and Rescue Service. The decision to close the website was taken following a consultative process undertaken by CLG, CFOA and LGA. This included a detailed assessment of future options; a survey of FRA views and usage; endorsement by CLG, CFOA and LGA; and is in line with the cross-government website rationalisation programme being managed by Cabinet Office as part of the Transformational Government Strategy.
- 1.2 Shona Dunn, FRD Director, wrote to Chief Fire Officers and FRA Chairs/Portfolio Holders on 31 January 2009 about future arrangements for Fire Gateway and again on 23 September 2009 about its proposed closure. Subsequently, the Fire Gateway Operations Team at the Fire Service College has issued technical information to IT contacts.

2.0 Action required

- 2.1 There are a number of actions that should by now be well advanced within FRSs so as to accommodate the changes that will result from the Fire Gateway closure. We know that a number of FRSs have already assessed what impact, if any, the Fire Gateway closure will have on their IT systems, but if FRSs need any further technical advice on the impact of the closure please contact the Portal Operations Manager at the Fire Service College (mdevereux@fireservicecollege.ac.uk) or log a support request using the Gateway support portal. The CFOA IT Managers Forum has been discussing this issue and its members are fully aware of the implications and again should be in contact with the Portal Operations Team at the Fire Service College if they need further advice.
- 2.2 Finally, so as to complete the closure audit trail, FRSs have been asked to confirm that they have successfully completed any necessary action to take account of the closure of Fire Gateway by 31 March. Please send the confirmation to Linda Hurford (Linda.hurford@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

3.0 Relocation of documents on Fire Gateway

- 3.1 The information currently on Fire Gateway has been reviewed and is being relocated as follows:
For Fire Safety information for citizens go to Directgov (www.direct.gov.uk)
For Fire Safety information for business go to Businesslink (www.businesslink.gov.uk)
Firefighter recruitment information is being transferred to the Skills for Justice web-site (www.skillsforjustice.com).
- 3.2 The transaction forms such as Home Fire Safety Visits have not been replicated on these sites as the statistics show that only a very small percentage of the forms sent to FRSs were completed on Fire Gateway and it was neither necessary nor cost effective to set them up on Directgov or Businesslink.

Linda Hurford

Fire and Rescue Service Development Division