

Circular number	12/2010	Date issued	23 March 2010
This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular provides information on providing confirmation that conditions applied for the payment of Capital Grant have been complied with.		

Capital Grant Funding

Issued by:

Robert Flynn

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 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:

**Treasurers
Directors of Finance**

Summary

This circular provides information on meeting conditions in the Fire and Rescue Authorities Capital Funding Grant Determination 2009/10 (No. 31/1406), including an extension to the deadline for the signed declaration to 31/07/2010.

For further information, contact:

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Capital Grant Funding

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In 2009-10 CLG made available a new capital grant paid to FRAs. Fire Service Circular 30/2009: 'Capital Grant Funding' sets out the payments that were made to Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) for the financial year 2009-10 under the Fire and Rescue Authorities Capital Funding Grant Determination 2009/10 (No. 31/1406) ('the grant determination'). FRAs have the flexibility to decide when and how the capital grant is spent, providing that it is spent on capital projects, such as fire estate improvements.

2.0 Funding Approach

- 2.1 Funding was provided via a section 31 grant payment made to each authority on 12 May 2009. One of the conditions in the grant determination required the Chief Executive and Chief Internal Auditor of each authority to sign and return a declaration to CLG by 31st March 2010, in the following terms (see paragraph 3 of Annex B of the grant determination):

"To the best of our knowledge and belief, and having carried out appropriate investigations and checks, in our opinion, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to the Fire and Rescue Authorities Capital Funding Grant Determination 2009/10 (No. 31/1406) have been complied with".

3.0 Revised procedure for grant declaration

- 3.1 We sought feedback on the grant process, in particular on timing of the return of grant declaration and signatories.

Deadline for grant declaration

- 3.2 Following representations CLG has decided that the date for receipt of the completed declaration will now be **31st July 2010** and authorities should make arrangements to meet this new deadline. Please note that CLG reserves the right to require repayment of the all or part of the grant paid to an FRA under the grant determination if a declaration is not received by the new deadline (see paragraph 4 of Annex B of the grant determination). Of course FRAs are free to send their returns in ahead of 31st July 2010.

Two signatories

- 3.3 CLG also considered whether officers other than the Chief Executive and Chief Internal Auditor could sign the declaration. However this Circular confirms that it must be the Chief Executive and Chief Internal Auditor, or the acting Chief Executive and acting Chief Internal auditor.
- 3.4 It was also suggested that the information required was already available through quarterly returns provided to CLG or through FRA audited accounts. We have considered these options but the quarterly returns would not provide sufficient detail for this grant and audited accounts are not suitable for our purpose. The requirement for the completed declaration therefore still stands.
- 3.5 The declaration process has been made as simple as possible whilst being able to meet CLG's audit requirements and so electronic signatures are acceptable.
- 3.6 Completed declarations should be forwarded to; Robert Flynn, CLG, 3/E2, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU or e-mailed to Robert.flynn@communities.gsi.gov.uk

4.0 Further information

- 4.1 If you have any questions or you would like further information please contact Robert Flynn on 0303 4442959 or e-mail Robert.flynn@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Robert Flynn
Finance and Performance