

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 Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer

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[Title: The future of fire and rescue control services in England consultation](#)

This item signposts the imminent end on the 8 April 2011 to the Consultation launched on the 13 January 2011.

[Title: Consultation on reducing the data burden of Fire and Rescue Returns – Summary of Responses](#)

This item signposts the publication of the summary of responses from the public consultation which ran between 26 November 2010 and 14 January 2011 on *Reductions of annual returns data collected from Fire and Rescue Services and of Fire of Special Interest reporting*.

The future of fire and rescue control services in England consultation

1. Background

1.1 A three-month consultation – *The future of fire and rescue control services in England* – began on 13 January 2011, following the closure of the FiReControl project, see Fire and Rescue Service Immediate Bulletin 3/2011 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fsbimmediate32011>. Views on the issues raised were requested by 8 April and this item is to remind recipients of this deadline should they wish to respond.

2. Consultation issues

2.1 The consultation encourages the fire and rescue community to respond to eight questions on four main themes, as follows:

- How the original aims of FiReControl – improved efficiency, resilience and technology available to the Fire and Rescue Service – could now be achieved
- The principles for allocating any funding available
- The appropriate role for central government in the future
- How to make the best use of some of the FiReControl legacy assets, including the control centre buildings.

2.2 The Government favours a scenario under which Fire and Rescue Authorities would look for greater collaboration and sharing of control services, encouraged by some support from central government. But the Government will not impose any solution.

2.3 The consultation document can be found at:

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

2.4 Responses to the consultation should be sent to the contact given below.

3. Control centre buildings

3.1 In parallel, the Department is continuing to hold discussions with Fire and Rescue Authorities that are interested in entering into commercial agreements regarding the control centre buildings. Further information on this can be requested from Toby Robinson (Tel: 0303 444 2843, email toby.robinson@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

For further information please contact:

Daniel Rothberg	Telephone	0303 444 4142
Future Control Services, Fire, Resilience and Emergencies Directorate	Email	daniel.rothberg@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation on reduction of the data burden of Fire and Rescue Returns – Summary of Responses

1. Background

1.1 This item signposts the publication of the summary of this consultation on *Reductions of annual returns data collected from Fire and Rescue Services and of Fires of Special Interest reporting* which ran between 26 November 2010 and 14 January 2011. It can be found on the Department's website: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/frsandfosisummaryofresponses>.

2. Key points

2.1 As noted in the Executive Summary and Next Steps sections of the consultation summary document, there was a good rate of response and very clear support for the reductions proposed as follows:

- Fire of Special Interest forms
With the exception of form A6 (notification of Fires in Crown Premises), which will continue to be required (return to cpig@communities.qsi.gov.uk), the requirement on Fire and Rescue Services to submit other Fires of Special Interest forms to the Department will end for incidents occurring after 31 March 2011
- Non-financial annual returns
A much reduced set of annual returns will be implemented for the collection of data for the period 2010/11. The specification of data items that have been retained can be found in Annex B of the consultation summary document
- Notification of incidents to the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser duty officer
As per the proposals in the consultation, the Department will continue to receive notification by telephone to the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser duty officer of instances of:
 - serious injury or death of a firefighter
 - incidents resulting in multiple fatalities
 - significant Fire and Rescue Service operational incidents.

The 24 hour Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser duty officer contact number is 0303 444 4101.

2.2 The summary document provides an overview of the range of comments and suggestions received in response to the consultation.

2.3 For further information please contact:

- Annual data returns from the Fire and Rescue Service to the Department - Daniele Bega, Fire and Resilience Research and Statistics, Tel: 0303 444 2824
- Fire of Special Interest forms - Mark Dunn, Fire and Resilience Research and Statistics, Tel: 0303 444 2814
- Notification of incidents to the Chief Fire and rescue Adviser - Chris Boulton 0303 444 3155.

For further information please contact:

Daniele Bega	Telephone	0303 444 2824
Fire and Resilience Research Statistics	Email	daniele.bega@communities.qsi.gov.uk

Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU
Telephone: 0303 444 0000
Website: www.communities.gov.uk

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