

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: [Fire and Rescue National Framework for England Consultation](#)

This item highlights the launch of the draft Fire and Rescue National Framework for England public consultation.

Fire and Rescue Service National Framework for England Consultation

1. Background

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires a Fire and Rescue National Framework to be in place that sets out the priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions.

The Fire and Rescue Service Bulletin 12/2011 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/2050225> highlighted that the Fire Minister Bob Neill MP wrote to partners across the fire sector on Monday 13 June 2011 to announce that officials in the Fire, Resilience and Emergencies Directorate were due to begin work on the next Fire and Rescue National Framework.

2. Consultation

The Fire Minister Bob Neill MP made a Written Ministerial Statement to Parliament today announcing the publication of the draft Fire and Rescue National Framework for England consultation.

The draft Framework marks a key milestone in resetting the relationship between fire and rescue authorities and Government. It proposes moving away from prescription, enabling fire and rescue authorities to deliver their services in a way that makes sense locally, whilst continuing to meet the wider needs of national resilience. The Government retains an overarching responsibility for national resilience at a strategic level.

The draft Framework builds on existing notable practice by fire and rescue authorities in promoting accountability to communities, partnership working and data transparency. It underscores the importance of effective integrated risk management planning processes, which reflect active consultation with communities and partners.

The priorities proposed in the draft Framework are for fire and rescue authorities to:

- identify and assess the full range of fire and rescue related risks their area faces, make provision for prevention and protection activities and to respond to incidents appropriately;
- work in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally to deliver their service; and
- be accountable to communities for the service they provide.

This public consultation gives fire and rescue authorities, members of the fire and rescue services, professional and representative bodies, local authorities and other local bodies, industry, charities, and the general public an opportunity to help shape the revised Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

Consultees are invited to respond in particular to the following questions:

- Is the content of each chapter clear, specific and proportionate?
- Does the draft National Framework set clear and appropriate expectations of fire and rescue authorities? If not, how could it be improved?
- Are the respective roles of fire and rescue authorities and the Government set out clearly? If not, how could they be improved or made clearer?
- Do the requirements for fire and rescue authorities on scrutiny, access to comparable performance data and assurance go too far or not far enough?

Alongside this public consultation, the Department will be working with key partner organisations, including the Local Government Association and the Chief Fire Officers' Association, to determine the appropriate strategic governance arrangements for national resilience, as introduced in the draft Framework.

The existing National Framework remains in force until the new one is brought into effect.

The consultation document can be found at the Department for Communities and Local Government website at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fireframeworkconsultation2012>.

The public consultation ends on 19th March 2012. Please send responses to FireNationalFramework@communities.gsi.gov.uk (with any attachments in Microsoft Word).

For further information please contact:

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