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The Clerks to the Joint Fire and Rescue Boards
The Chief Executive, Dumfries and Galloway Council
The Chief Executive, Fife Council
The Chief Fire Officers
The SCG Chairs



11 June 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CIRCULAR 7/2009: National Resilience Strategy: “Scotland’s Resilience: The Contribution of The Fire and Rescue Service”

This circular provides information to the Fire and Rescue Services on the recently issued national resilience strategy - **“Scotland’s Resilience: The Contribution of The Fire and Rescue Service”**. Due to its classification, the document will not be issued widely. However, copies will be issued for information to Chief Fire Officers and SCG chairs, Mr Tom Aitchison and Mr Stephen House.

Purpose

“Scotland’s Resilience: The Contribution of The Fire and Rescue Service” sets out Scottish Ministers’ expectations of the role they expect Scotland’s Fire and Rescue Services to play towards building our shared resilience at local and national levels. Informed by the UK National Risk Assessment, the Strategy specifies a need for a collective response against the 3 key national risks, CBRN, Pandemic Flu and severe weather, and seeks a single Scotland wide Delivery Plan from the 8 services.

Although the strategy highlights the importance of total resilience to all of the major threats, as articulated through the UK National Risk Assessment process, it is accepted that there is a priority to develop an appropriate and proportionate CBRN response in line with the rest of the UK. The Scottish Government has worked closely with COSLA and representatives from the FRAs to ensure that these policy objectives are deliverable, drawing upon mutual aid from the rest of the UK as appropriate.

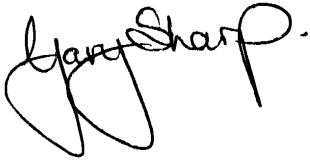
The Strategy will be kept under review and may be revised in response to changes to risk profile or response requirements. Further versions to the document will be undertaken in consultation with the service and COSLA and issued in the same way.

The next stage of the process is for Fire Board Convenors to develop a single Scotland wide Delivery Plan setting out how they plan to deliver the requirements of the Strategy. This

should highlight current levels of preparedness, gaps in preparedness, proposal to close any gaps, and set out a process of assurance.

If you have any questions on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Sharp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

GARY SHARP