

15 December 2011

Dear Colleague,

Strategic governance arrangements for fire and rescue national resilience

We are pleased to attach a discussion paper on the proposed strategic governance arrangements for fire and rescue national resilience. This paper is the outcome of joint working by DCLG and CFOA, and is supported by both organisations. The proposals contained in the paper build on the commitment in the Fire and Rescue National Framework consultation document, published earlier this week, to ensure that appropriate, agreed strategic governance arrangements are in place to enable fire and rescue authorities to collectively engage with Government on national resilience issues.

It is recognised that national resilience is best planned for on the basis of local professional expertise and understanding of risk, supported by strong partnership arrangements. The attached discussion paper sets out proposals for how Government and fire and rescue authorities could work in partnership to agree how national resilience risks should be addressed. It sets out the proposed purpose and structure of the strategic governance arrangements, and proposes the establishment of a new Fire and Rescue Strategic Resilience Board. The paper also suggests that the existing National Resilience Board should become the delivery arm of the Strategic Resilience Board.

We would welcome your comments on this discussion paper and, in particular, on the five specific questions raised in the paper. Please send your comments to Bethan.MacDonald@communities.gsi.gov.uk by **Friday 16 March 2012**. If there are other, related issues that you wish to comment on, please include these comments, too.

Your comments and observations will help to shape the work going forward. We intend to be able to advise you of the finalised arrangements by Spring 2012, and we intend to have the new arrangements in place by mid-2012.

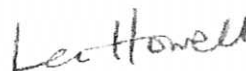
If you need any further information or if you would like to discuss this further, please contact: Heidi Pearson, DCLG (heidi.pearson@communities.gsi.gov.uk; 030344 44384) or Bethan MacDonald, DCLG (bethan.macdonald@communities.gsi.gov.uk; 030344 42802).

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely,



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