

**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 control services consultation**

The publication of the consultation on the future of fire and rescue control services in England, following the closure of the FiReControl project.

## Fire and rescue control services consultation

### 1. Background

- 1.1 On 20 December the Fire Minister Bob Neill MP announced that the FiReControl project was being closed down. The project set out to replace England's 46 stand alone fire and rescue control rooms with a resilient network of nine control centres.
- 1.2 Fire and rescue authorities have a statutory duty to deal with emergency calls and mobilise resources to incidents. FiReControl was included in *The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008–11* in this context.

### 2. The Consultation

- 2.1 The Department has published a consultation document today on the future of Fire and Rescue control services in England. This considers:
- the legacy assets from the FiReControl project and how they might best be used for the benefit of the taxpayer and the fire and rescue community
  - the lessons learnt from the FiReControl project
  - whether the aims of the project – improving national resilience, efficiency and the technology available to the fire and rescue services – are still valid and how these might be achieved
  - the principles for allocating any funding available.
- 2.2 The Government believes that the fire and rescue community is best placed to decide on the future of its control services and will not impose any solution.
- 2.3 The Department will discuss the future use of the control centre buildings with representatives from Fire and Rescue Authorities during the consultation period. An arrangement has been reached, in principle, with the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority for the London Fire Brigade to move their existing control service and technology, along with some other functions, into the new control centre building in Merton. This might set a precedent for other arrangements.
- 2.4 The Fire Minister Bob Neill MP made a written Ministerial Statement to Parliament today announcing the publication of the consultation. A copy of the consultation document can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at: [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fireandrescuecontrolservices](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fireandrescuecontrolservices). The consultation will last for 12 weeks and responses are requested by 8 April 2011.

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