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2005/2006 Grant Allocation to Fire and Rescue Services in support of FiReControl New Burdens

Issued by:

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Addressed to:

**All Chairs of Fire and Rescue Authorities
The Commissioner of the London Fire and
Emergency Planning Authority
All Chief Fire Officers**

Please forward to:

Treasurers

Summary

For your information, the 2005/2006 grant allocations to Fire and Rescue Services, in support of new burdens associated with the FiReControl project.

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1.0 2005/2006 s31 grant allocation to Fire and Rescue Services for FiReControl new burdens

- 1.1 This circular is to let you know that your Fire & Rescue Authority will receive a grant (under s.31 of the Local Government Act 2003) to cover new burdens in FY 2005-06 arising from the FiReControl project, as listed in the table at Annex 1.
- 1.2 Additionally some funds are being allocated to a sponsor authority in each region to cover the regional project team and also those costs which cannot be precisely allocated until after the location announcements have been made. It will be the responsibility of the Regional Management Board (RMB) in each region to agree the distribution of funds for such costs, and to ensure that they are distributed appropriately.
- 1.3 A new burden is not the total cost of new work carried out by existing staff but should take account of changes such as work which no longer needs to be undertaken or work that has been deferred as a result of modernisation. It is the net additional cost for work on controls for each individual FRA. There should not be an averaging out; all FRAs should have equal treatment, which is partly why the ODPM is taking the approach of giving a nominated authority some funds to share according to the impact on authorities of the location of the Regional Control Centre (RCC). Other items will be covered by ODPM project expenditure. Moreover, some of the items bid for will not arise until 2006-07.
- 1.4 The items we have assessed as new burdens for 2005-06 break down into a number of broad categories:

Project Team

- 1.5 **Project Manager** – We agree that this is a new burden and that ODPM should fund a full-time project manager at the equivalent of Group Manager (Control) plus 50% on-costs for each region. This will be paid to the nominated authority in the region.
- 1.6 **Project Director** – This is already an essential part of the role of the Chief Fire Officers under their responsibility for the delivery of the modernisation agenda and therefore not eligible for additional funding.
- 1.7 **Project Team** – Our assessment is that each region, excluding London, will need some time from a number of people to provide operational input. Most of this should be capable of being absorbed within existing resources. As a new burden ODPM will provide funding for operational support for one FTE Watch Manager (Control) equivalent (plus 50% on cost) and for one FTE admin support person (non-operation control operator equivalent plus 50% on cost) per region. This will be paid together with the project manager funds to a single authority within the region. If necessary it is down to the RMB to spread these funds across more than one authority.
- 1.8 **Legal** – In our opinion this is not a new burden. Authorities make provision for legal advice on a variety of issues and any legal advice for FiReControl should be undertaken within their normal provision.

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- 1.9 Travel & Subsistence** – This has been calculated based on average costs of travel from the Government Office for the region to London and a notional cost of travel within the region. A total cost per FRA delegate has been reached using the assumption that there would be four London meetings and 12 regional meetings in the course of the year. The delegate costs have then been totalled and used to calculate the proportion of the total budget that should be allocated per FRA. All FRAs in a region have been treated identically.
- 1.10** Travel costs have been based on a standard open return from the GO for the region (Plymouth in the SW) as an average for travel to London. If it is not possible to arrive before 10:00 on a train that leaves no earlier than 06:30, then £100 has been added to the cost to cover average overnight accommodation and subsistence. For intra-regional meetings an assumed travel cost of £25 has been used (with the assumption that the host will not incur any additional travel costs). A proportion of the total budget to be allocated was then arrived at by assuming one delegate per FRA attended four meetings in London and 12 in their own region.

RCC Staff

- 1.11** Funding for RCC staff, their recruitment or other work directly related to the new RCCs will be covered by ODPM during the FY 2005-06. This will include the three RCC managers for six months and two other members of staff per RCC for three months in FY 2005-06.
- 1.12 RCC Training** – There will be a need to double-bank (i.e. by recruiting casuals or through overtime) for a three month period prior to the go-live of the first RCCs. This will be immediately prior to the go-live scheduled for November 2006 and so will not be in FY 2005-06.

Existing Staff

- 1.13 Retention Payments** – We accept that employers may decide that some retention payments will be required in the forthcoming financial year, although we would expect the main part of these payments to fall towards the end of the period for which the retention of staff is required (i.e. in later financial years). ODPM has provided an amount for initial payments, should employers decide that this is needed. If employers decide to make retention payments, we expect that more substantial sums may be required in 2006-07 for first tranche regions, and in future years for other regions, to ensure that sufficient staff are retained by each FRS until its transition to the RCC is complete.
- 1.14 Overstaffing/"Double Banking"**– There should be no requirement for any region to overstaff in the forthcoming FY. There will be some requirement in following FYs depending on where regions are in the rollout order. However we have allowed the equivalent of one day's overtime per operator to allow for release of staff to attend either interviews or assessment centres for RCC recruitment. Double this has been allowed for those FRAs in the first tranche to allow for the fact that some of their staff may need to be redeployed.

1.15 These funds will be allocated to one authority nominated by the RMB. We recognise that until the location announcements are made it is impossible to share the money fairly as those FRAs closest to the new RCC will have a disproportionately larger number of their staff applying for positions in the new RCC. The money should be shared between FRAs in a region on the basis of need, the exact mechanism being left to the RMB to decide.

1.16 **Interim Recruitment** – This is definitely not a new burden nor is it likely to be in future years. FRAs remain responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient staff to deliver an effective service.

Convergence & ICT Support

1.17 On the whole, it is our view that, for the majority of the activities identified, only the first tranche regions face a new burden in FY 2005-06. However some funds are included for initial scoping work during 2005-06 on a per FRA basis.

1.18 ODPM accepts that additional work on the migration of the gazetteer will be required for FiReControl. This should include general work also claimed on GIS & hydrant data. This is a data validation exercise and should probably start around 18 months prior to the FRS going live with an RCC. ODPM will fund one person per FRA (at non-operational support level) to cover the street level validation required.

1.19 There may be some need for work on interfaces. However it is uncertain whether it will need to be done until the technology infrastructure contract is in place and may in fact be covered by that contract. Certainly not all FRAs will need to do this. This has been included in the allowance made for scoping work.

Annex 1 – s31 Grant Allocation 2005-2006 to Fire and Rescue Authorities for FiReControl New Burdens

Brigade name	Reg.	Type	Retention	R&S Cover	T&S	Proj Team	GIS etc	Interfaces	Total
Derbyshire	EM	early	£6,250		£2,087	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£27,997
Lincolnshire	EM	early	£4,910		£2,087	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£26,657
Northamptonshire	EM	early	£4,464		£2,087	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£26,211
Nottinghamshire	EM	early	£5,803		£2,087	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£27,550
Leicestershire	EM	Sponsor	£6,473	£35,456	£2,087	£119,650	£13,107	£6,553	£183,326
Norfolk	EoE	Sponsor	£6,250	£24,677	£1,445	£119,650	£2,184	£2,184	£156,390
Bedfordshire & Luton	EoE	main	£5,803		£1,445	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£11,616
Cambridgeshire	EoE	main	£5,357		£1,445	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£11,170
Essex	EoE	main	£9,598		£1,445	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£15,411
Hertfordshire	EoE	main	£6,026		£1,445	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£11,839
Suffolk	EoE	main	£5,803		£1,445	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£11,616

County Durham & Darlington	NE	early	£5,803		£4,690	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£30,153
Northumberland	NE	early	£4,464		£4,690	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£28,814
Tyne & Wear	NE	early	£9,598		£4,690	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£33,948
Cleveland	NE	Sponsor	£5,803	£32,621	£4,690	£119,650	£13,107	£6,553	£182,424
Cheshire	NW	main	£6,026		£4,836	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£15,230
Cumbria	NW	main	£3,794		£4,836	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£12,998
Greater Manchester	NW	Sponsor	£16,294	£30,493	£4,836	£119,650	£2,184	£2,184	£175,641
Lancashire	NW	main	£9,821		£4,836	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£19,025
Merseyside	NW	main	£12,053		£4,836	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£21,257
West Sussex	SE	Sponsor	£6,250	£34,744	£1,384	£119,650	£2,184	£2,184	£166,396
Buckinghamshire	SE	main	£4,464		£1,384	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£10,216
East Sussex	SE	main	£5,803		£1,384	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£11,555
Hampshire	SE	main	£8,705		£1,384	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£14,457
Isle Of Wight	SE	main	£2,901		£1,384	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£8,653
Kent	SE	main	£9,821		£1,384	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£15,573
Oxfordshire	SE	main	£4,241		£1,384	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£9,993
Royal Berkshire	SE	main	£6,696		£1,384	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£12,448
Surrey	SE	main	£5,803		£1,384	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£11,555
Avon	SW	early	£7,366		£4,594	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£31,620
Cornwall	SW	early	£3,794		£4,594	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£28,048
Dorset	SW	early	£5,357		£4,594	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£29,611
Gloucestershire	SW	early	£5,580		£4,594	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£29,834
Somerset	SW	early	£4,687		£4,594	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£28,941
Wiltshire	SW	Sponsor	£4,464	£47,087	£4,594	£119,650	£13,107	£6,553	£195,455
Devon	SW	early	£5,803		£4,594	£0	£13,107	£6,553	£30,057
Staffordshire	WM	main	£6,919		£2,391	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£13,678
West Midlands	WM	Sponsor	£15,401	£22,549	£2,391	£119,650	£2,184	£2,184	£164,359
Hereford & Worcester	WM	main	£5,133		£2,391	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£11,892
Shropshire	WM	main	£4,241		£2,391	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£11,000
Warwickshire	WM	main	£3,794		£2,391	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£10,553
South Yorkshire	Y&H	main	£8,928		£2,840	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£16,136
Humberside	Y&H	main	£6,696		£2,840	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£13,904
North Yorkshire	Y&H	main	£5,133		£2,840	£0	£2,184	£2,184	£12,341
West Yorkshire	Y&H	Sponsor	£11,607	£20,565	£2,840	£119,650	£2,184	£2,184	£159,030
London	Lon	liaison	£0	£0	£0	£64,654	£0	£0	£64,654
Total			£300,000	£248,192	£129,974	£1,021,854	£273,048	£168,184	£2,141,232