



Circular number	<b>37-2004</b>	Date issued	<b>15 September 2004</b>
This circular is	<b>For consultation</b>	Respond by	<b>03 December 2004</b>
This circular is	<b>Relevant to the National Framework</b>		
Status	<b>This Circular announces the publication of the draft National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service in England.</b>		

# *Draft National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service in England*

## Issued by:

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Head of Fire Service Effectiveness Issues Branch  
Fire Service Effectiveness Division

## Addressed to:

**The Chief Executive to the County Council**  
**The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority**  
**The Clerk to the Fire and Civil Defence Authority**  
**The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority**  
**The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority**  
**The Chief Fire Officer**

## Please forward to:

**Chairs of Regional Management Boards**  
**Regional Resilience Teams**  
**Regional Government Offices**

## Summary

**This Circular announces the publication of the draft National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service in England and explains how consultation will be handled.**

## For further information, contact:

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### 1.0 Draft National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service in England

- 1.1 ODPM has been working with Officers of the LGA and CFOA since 2003 on developing a National Procurement Strategy for the Service in England. A working group, including representatives of the Scottish and Welsh administrations, commissioned consultancy from Cap Gemini Ernst & Young and the Improvement and Development Agency. The findings of that work were shared with a cross section of Officers and Members at a workshop in February this year and formed the basis of further work to develop the Strategy.
- 1.2 The draft Strategy was launched on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at Fire 2004. Copies were made available to conference delegates on CD-ROM and in hard copy and it is available on the ODPM website at:  
[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_fire/documents/page/odpm\\_fire\\_030990.pdf](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_fire/documents/page/odpm_fire_030990.pdf)
- 1.3 I attach a copy of the draft for your consideration. Please note that a separate consultation document, highlighting areas in which we particularly value comments, will be produced by 30<sup>th</sup> September and circulated to all recipients of the draft Strategy. Ministers have agreed that the 12-week consultation period will run from the publication of the draft Strategy rather than the date of issue of the consultation document.
- 1.4 You will wish to note that consultation will close at mid-day on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and that we do not intend to accept late submissions. It would greatly assist my team in compiling comments if responses were submitted by email in Word format, as well as any hard copies that you may wish to submit.
- 1.5 You will also wish to note that the timescales detailed in FSC 18/2003 no longer apply. Authorities are expected to ensure that any contracts which they propose to let do not cut across the aims of the draft Strategy or frustrate the planned dates for implementation of common specifications and procurement arrangements at the national level. Where such synchronisation is impossible for commercial or operational reasons the period of overlap must be kept to a minimum and the authority should seek advice from ODPM before committing itself to the procurement.

### 2.0 Further information

- 2.1 For further information on this guidance note please contact staff in FSED6 on 020 7944 4033 or e-mail: [fsed6@odpm.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fsed6@odpm.gsi.gov.uk)

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