

Circular number	79/2009	Date issued	23 December 2009
This circular is	For response	Date response required	5 February 2010
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular asks fire and rescue services to complete the attached questionnaire regarding progress on equality and diversity, for the FRS Equality and Diversity Report 2010		

Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Report 2010 - Questionnaire

Issued by:

Gill McManus

Fire & Rescue Service Development Division

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
London Fire Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

**Head of Equality and Diversity
Head of Human Resources**

Summary

The Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy 2008-2018 requires Fire and Rescue Authorities to provide information to Communities and Local Government (CLG) on their performance on equality and diversity annually. CLG have undertaken to publish an annual FRS Equality and Diversity Report using this information. The attached questionnaire should be completed and returned to CLG by 5 February 2010.

For further information, contact:

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 In May 2008 Communities and Local Government published the Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy 2008-2018. The Strategy set out what the Service should look like in ten years time, in terms of the diversity of its workforce and culture of the organisation, and provided a framework for how change would be achieved.
- 1.2 To support and encourage fire and rescue services in achieving this change, Communities and Local Government committed to the annual publication of a Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Report. The Report was to include information on progress made at both national and local level to improve equality and diversity within the Fire and Rescue Service.
- 1.3 The first annual Report was published in March 2009. The 2009 Report, which was published as a baseline report, drew on the IRMP statistical returns as its main source of information regarding progress made on equality and diversity by individual fire and rescue services. In order to ensure future annual reports included qualitative, as well as quantitative, evidence of progress the National Equality and Diversity Delivery Partnership has recommended that fire and rescue services be asked to provide additional information about the progress they have made.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In order to facilitate the collection of the qualitative information required for the 2010 Equality and Diversity Report, and to ensure consistency of approach, a questionnaire has been developed for completion by fire and rescue services. A copy is attached to this circular. Fire and rescue services are asked to complete the questionnaire and return it to CLG, electronically or in hard copy, by **5 February 2010**.
- 2.2 To facilitate the completion of the questionnaire, tick boxes have been provided where possible, however, owing to the nature of the information, narrative responses are also required and dialogue boxes have been provided throughout the questionnaire for this purpose.
- 2.3 Because information from the completed questionnaires will be used in the 2010 Equality and Diversity Report we are asking the Chief Fire Officer of each fire and rescue service to sign off the completed questionnaire before it is returned to CLG.

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Fire & Rescue Service Development Division