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This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular provides information on grant funding being awarded to FRAs for New Dimension accommodation, mass decontamination training and industrial relations training.		

Funding for New Dimension Accommodation, Isles of Scilly Training and Industrial Relations Training

Issued by:

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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 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:

**Treasurers
Directors of Finance
Directors of Human Resources**

Summary

This circular provides information on grant funding being awarded to FRAs for the second stage of accommodation work under the New Dimension Programme and mass decontamination training funding for the Isles of Scilly. It also confirms industrial relations training funding for FRAs.

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1.0 Background

- 1.1** In January 2006, Fire and Rescue Service Circular 3-2006 provided information on the New Dimension accommodation strategy and set out the criteria for what accommodation work would be funded. Furthermore, it announced funding of £1.4m to be awarded to FRAs for accommodating New Dimension equipment and vehicles under stage A of the strategy.
- 1.2** The same circular also identified the funding to be provided to FRAs for refresher training on Incident Response Units (IRUs).
- 1.3** This FRS circular follows on from FRSC 3-2006 and informs fire and rescue services (FRSs) about funding to be awarded under stage B of the accommodation strategy as well as confirming mass decontamination training funding for the Isles of Scilly.
- 1.4** Further, the 6th edition of the Scheme of Conditions of Service (Grey Book) introduced new procedures in respect of consultation and negotiation at local level. The National Joint Council for Fire and Rescue Services (NJC) National Employers recognise the need for training to be undertaken at local level in order to support understanding of the principles that underlie the procedures. Last year they sponsored a number of regional training sessions. Building on this the Employers' Side of the NJC has developed a programme of training in consultation with the Advisory Forum, details of which were set out in Employers' Circular EMP/7/06.
- 1.5** This circular will set out funding to help contribute to the cost to the FRS of attending such industrial relations training.

2.0 Funding Approach

- 2.1** All funding referred to in this circular has been awarded under the provisions of section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and are not ring-fenced. A copy of the New Dimension Accommodation, Other Resilience and Training Grant Determination 2006 (No.31/492), is attached at Annex A. All funding will be paid to FRAs in the week commencing 2 October.

3.0 New Dimension Stage B Accommodation

- 3.1** Stage B of the New Dimension accommodation strategy covers 14 FRSs with more complex accommodation needs. These FRSs have been asked to submit bids for their accommodation work which have been assessed against the programme criteria, value for money and affordability.
- 3.2** Ministers have since agreed to award nine FRAs a one off grant for stage B accommodation work for expenditure in 2006/07. The total amount is £1,920,540 and the amounts for each FRA are summarised in the grant determination at Annex A. Those FRAs receiving funding have been written to individually.
- 3.3** There remain a further five FRSs seeking funding under stage B. Discussions are continuing with these FRSs, the outcome of which will be detailed in a separate circular.

- 3.4** Work on stages C and D of the accommodation strategy relating to accommodation in London and IRU accommodation respectively is currently on-going. It is expected that funding for all accommodation work will be complete by the end of December 2006.
- 4.0 Isles of Scilly Mass Decontamination Training Funding**
- 4.1** Earlier this year, funding totalling £2.3m (£35k per IRU) was awarded to FRAs for the purpose of IRU refresher training in 05/06 and the same funding was also confirmed for 2006/07.
- 4.2** Although the Isles of Scilly do not possess an IRU they do host a substantial amount of mass decontamination equipment on behalf of the New Dimension programme and we recognise that there is a training burden relating to this.
- 4.3** On this basis, Ministers have agreed to award the Isles of Scilly funding of £10k for both 2005/06 and 2006/07. The amount is proportionate to the training burden on the Isles of Scilly compared to that of other FRAs hosting IRUs and accompanying mass decontamination equipment.
- 5.0 Industrial Relations Training**
- 5.1** Industrial relations training is considered to be a priority and Ministers have agreed funding in this financial year in recognition of the costs to English FRSs of consultation and negotiation procedures training which the Local Government Employers has been developing following the introduction of new procedures in the 6th edition of the Scheme of Conditions of Service (Grey Book).
- 5.2** The total amount of grant to be paid in 2006/07 is £25,850, to be paid at the rate of £550 per FRA, with £1,100 for London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LEFPA). No grant is being paid to the Isles of Scilly as it is not part of the FRS National Employers arrangements.

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