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This circular is	<b>For consultation</b>	Respond by	<b>02 October 2006</b>
This circular is	<b>Relevant to the National Framework</b>		
Status	<b>Consultation on the revocation of the Devon FRA Combination Scheme to allow for the combination of Devon and Somerset FRAs by 02 October 2006</b>		

# *Consultation on the revocation of the Devon FRA Combination Scheme to allow for combination of Devon and Somerset FRAs*

## Issued by:

**Kate Hepher**  
**Fire and Resilience Policy 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**  
**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**  
**Finance Directors**

## Summary

This circular invites FRAs to respond to a consultation on the revocation of the Devon FRA Combination Scheme to allow for the combination of Devon and Somerset FRAs by the 02 October 2006.

## For further information, contact:

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**Fire and Resilience Directorate**  
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General helpline **020 7944 8194**

Website [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2006 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) submitted a business case to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and a draft proposal for a voluntary merger between the two Authorities. Any orders to revoke the combination scheme for Devon FRA and create a new combined FRA will also be subject to Parliamentary approval. The business case can be viewed at <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/somerset/fire/StrategicReview.asp>
- 1.2 As part of the DCLG's consideration of that business case and draft proposal we are consulting all relevant parties in accordance with section 4 (5) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) on the revocation of the Devon FRA Combination Scheme.
- 1.3 The consultation paper is attached and this can be found on the DCLG website under 'consultation'
- 1.4 Comments on the revocation of the Devon FRA Combination Scheme are invited and should be received no later than 02 October 2006.

## 2.0 Key Issues

- 2.1 We would welcome any thoughts you have on the possible implications of this revocation. In particular you may have views on:
- Any operational/ public safety implications;
  - The financial implications;
  - The strategic implications; and
  - The Governance arrangements proposed.

## 3.0 Responses

- 3.1 Consultees are invited to comment on the proposal to revoke the existing combination scheme for Devon FRA, by no later than **02 October 2006**. We will consider all comments received by this date.
- 3.2 Responses, including the name and addresses of respondents, may be made public unless confidentiality is specifically requested. All responses may, nonetheless, be included in statistical summaries of comments received and views expressed. Any automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your organisation's IT system will not be respected, unless you specifically include a request for confidentiality in the main text of your response.
- 3.3 All responses should be sent to [frd-finance@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:frd-finance@communities.gsi.gov.uk) or you can write to Charlotte Albone.

**Kate Hepher**

**Fire and Resilience Directorate**