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This circular is	<b>For information</b>	No response required	
This circular is	<b>Relevant to the National Framework</b>		
Status	<b>To alert FRAs to the new Communities and Local Government online discussion forum on the 2008 Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) National Framework</b>		

# *Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) National Framework – online discussion forum*

## Issued by:

**Talia Watson**  
**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**

## Summary

**This circular is to inform Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) of a new Communities and Local Government online discussion forum. FRAs are invited to post their comments and suggestions on what the next FRS National Framework (NF) should look like.**

## For further information, contact:

<b>Talia Watson</b>	Direct line	<b>0207 944 4509</b>
<b>Fire and Resilience Directorate</b>	Fax	<b>0207 944 8319</b>
<b>Department for Communities and Local Government,</b>	E-mail	<a href="mailto:frs-efficiency@communities.gsi.gov.uk">frs-efficiency@communities.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<b>9/J10 Eland House</b>		
<b>Bressenden Place, London. SW1E 5DU</b>		

General helpline	<b>020 7944 4509</b>	Website	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>
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## 1.0 Background

The Fire and Rescue National Framework (NF) is a statutory guidance document that sets out the Department 's expectations of the Fire and Rescue Service, what fire and rescue authorities are expected to do, and what support Government will provide. The Fire and Rescue Service's Act 2004 puts a duty on the Secretary of State to maintain an up to date NF and to consult on any revisions to this Framework.

## 2.0 The next FRS National Framework

The next version of the FRS National Framework needs to come into effect in April 2008 and we are beginning to think about how we might want to improve the Framework.

2.1 In particular, we believe it may be appropriate to refresh the structure and format of the Framework including the number and length of chapters and the editorial style which has focussed in some areas on past achievements rather than a vision for the future.

2.2 We would therefore welcome your views and the views of all staff in fire and rescue authorities on what the next Framework should look like, particularly in terms of its structure, length and lifespan. In particular, we want to reach those who are users of the document, for their views on how it can be made more useful.

## 3.0 DCLG online discussion forum

We believe it is important that the FRS has the opportunity to shape the 2008 Framework at an early stage and prior to the formal consultation process. We have therefore set up an online discussion forum on the Department's website.

3.1 We are keen to hear your views on what you see as the main strengths and weaknesses of the current Framework, as well as any suggestions you may have on how we could look to improve the next Framework. This is an informal discussion site, aimed at giving the widest number of people possible the opportunity to comment without formally representing the views of their organisation. We would appreciate it if you could promote this opportunity as widely as possible among your staff and with others who may be interested.

3.2 The National Framework team will participate in the discussion forum where relevant and will respond to questions on a daily basis. The discussion forum will provisionally run until the New Year but we are keen for it to remain open as long as it proves useful. We will consider all responses posted on the forum and will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the development of the Framework.

3.3 To access the forum please click on <http://forum.communities.gov.uk/forum/frsframework>. The site will then prompt you to register before posting your comments. Any queries should be directed to: Talia Watson.

**Talia Watson**

**Fire and Resilience Directorate**