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This circular is	For guidance	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular informs FRAs of those which are participating in the national mutual aid protocol for serious incidents		

FRAs Participating in the National Mutual Aid Protocol for Serious Incidents

Issued by:

Sir Graham Meldrum
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of the Fire Services

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 confirms that every FRA in England has agreed to participate under the terms of the national mutual aid protocol for serious incidents.

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1.0 **Background**

1.1 This circular follows on from *FRS Circular 42-2006 'National Mutual Aid Protocol for Serious Incidents'* inviting FRAs to participate in the National Mutual Aid Protocol, or the Protocol for short.

2.0 **Participating FRAs**

2.1 I am pleased to advise that every FRA in England has agreed to participate under the terms of the Protocol. This means that for the very first time, each FRA has confidence in being able to request or provide assistance from each other should a serious incident occur.

2.2 Full FRA participation in the Protocol also means that the challenging task for the FRS National Coordination Centre, coordinating specialist (New Dimension) resources during serious incidents, is greatly assisted and made quicker. This is because the Protocol has enabled FRAs to agree in advance the terms under which they can support each other during an incident such as a terrorist attack.

2.3 This is excellent news, demonstrating the solid commitment of all the Fire and Rescue Services to improving further the country's national resilience to terrorist attacks and other disruptive incidents.

3.0 **Next Steps**

3.1 Updates to this circular will occur should the number of participating FRAs change in future. The Protocol will also be subject to review when circumstances require it, such as the introduction of Regional Control Centres in England.

3.2 Mutual assistance arrangements for serious incidents between FRAs in England and those elsewhere in the UK will be separately pursued. These are expected to use the general terms of the Protocol, taking account of resource coordination arrangements within each part of the UK.

SIR GRAHAM MELDRUM

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of the Fire Services