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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>This circular informs senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service of progress with the Fire and Resilience Programme</b>		

# Fire and Resilience Programme Highlights – June 2008

## Issued by:

**Bess Teeger**

**Performance, Planning and Finance 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:

## Summary

This is the fourth of a series of monthly 'highlights' notes, to inform Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) of progress with the Fire and Resilience Programme.

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### 1.0 FiReControl Regional Control Centre Directors

- 1.1 Two new Regional Control Centre Directors have recently been appointed. Matthew Godwin is the new Director for the South East. Dominic Whelan, the new Director for the North West will be taking up his post later this year.

### 2.0 Firelink Phase C and FiReControl

- 2.1 Phase C of Firelink applies to England only and supports the deployment of FiReControl systems, in preparation for the migration to Regional Control Centres (RCCs). The two parts to Firelink Phase C are:
- Installation of Airwave interface equipment in RCCs to provide the voice and data services needed
  - Installation of mobile data terminals (MDTs) in fire appliances
- 2.2 Manufacture of the interface equipment for the first three RCCs is underway, with a view to installing the equipment in autumn 2008. This is to ensure that Airwave service in the first three RCCs is ready in good time to be integrated with the FiReControl systems, as well as for assurance testing to be carried out. Airwave has conducted site surveys for the first two RCCs and is now developing a detailed plan for installation and testing of the equipment, in conjunction with Firelink and FiReControl teams.
- 2.3 The first stage of the MDT rollout is aimed at fire and rescue services which do not currently have MDTs. It will provide an MDT solution to give firefighters access to maps, chemical and automotive hazard information, standard operating procedures and site-specific risks.
- 2.4 The second stage of the MDT rollout will result in an upgrade at the point of migration of the FRS to the RCC. This will provide further functionality, such as Automatic Vehicle Location, status, mobilisation and other incident messaging, integrated with the RCC mobilising system.
- 2.5 Migration plans for FRSs which do currently have MDTs will be developed in consultation with the FRSs concerned.

### 3.0 New Dimension

- 3.1 The National Audit Office has been conducting a value for money review of the New Dimension Programme over the past few months. Their findings will be published in due course.

### 4.0 Pitt Review

- 4.1 Sir Michael Pitt published his final report into the summer 2007 floods on 25 June. His report made over 90 recommendations on how to improve planning, preparedness and response to flooding incidents. His report can be found at [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thepittreview/final\\_report.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thepittreview/final_report.aspx).
- 4.2 As the Secretary of State for the Environment announced in the House on 25 June, the Government will be considering all of Sir Michael's recommendations very carefully, and will be publishing an implementation plan in autumn of this year, detailing where we intend to take the recommendations forward.

### 5.0 **New Director of Fire and Resilience**

- 5.1 The new Director of Fire and Resilience at Communities and Local Government will be Shona Dunn, who is currently head of Sustainable Buildings Division in the Department. Sandy Bishop will continue to act as interim Director until Shona takes up the post.

**Bess Teeger**

**Programmes, Finance and Performance Division**