

POLICY NOTE

THE SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (FRAMEWORK) ORDER 2016

S.S.I 2016/

1. The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers contained in section 40(4) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”). The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure. The instrument extends only to Scotland.

Policy Objectives

2. The 2005 Act was amended by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 (“the 2012 Act”), which established a single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (“the SFRS”) to replace the existing fire and rescue authorities and joint fire and rescue boards. The 2012 Act further amended the 2005 Act to require that a framework document be prepared in relation to the new Service. The purpose of this Order is to bring into effect the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016 (“the framework document”) on 4th October 2016. The Scottish Ministers have prepared the framework document under section 40(1) of the 2005 Act.

3. The framework document sets out priorities and objectives for the SFRS in connection with the carrying out of its statutory functions. It also contains such guidance, and other matters relating to the SFRS and its functions, as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate. It replaces the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013.

4. Section 41(1) of the 2005 Act requires the SFRS to have regard to the framework document in carrying out its functions. Section 41A(4) requires the SFRS to have regard to the framework document when preparing its strategic plan.

5. The framework document was published in September 2016 and is available on the Scottish Government’s website:
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/8011>

6. Article 3 of the Order revokes the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Framework and Appointed Day for Strategic Plan) Order 2013 (S.S.I. 2013/97), which brought the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 into effect.

Consultation

7. The framework document was subject to full public consultation from 21 March 2016 to 15 June 2016. This involved all statutory consultees listed in section 40 of the 2005 Act. A full list of the 38 individuals and organisations who responded is attached to the consultation report which has been published on the Scottish Government website <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/08/3762>. Responses were received from several local authorities, third sector organisations, academic organisations, public bodies and, in addition, from:

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board;
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Senior Leadership Team;
- Fire Brigades Union;
- Fire Officers Association; and
- The Scottish Information Commissioner.

8. The framework document sets out Scottish Ministers' expectations of the SFRS now that the majority of the reform journey bringing the previous 8 fire and rescue services into a single national Service has been completed. As an established national public body, the framework document asks the SFRS to explore new ways of working to allow it to contribute an even greater role in the protection of Scotland's communities.

Impact Assessments

9. An equality impact assessment ("EQIA") has been completed on the framework document. The EQIA accompanied the framework document during the consultation. While the Order itself has no specific equality impact issues, the framework document seeks to address a number of equality matters relating to the SFRS. The EQIA is attached.

10. The SFRS will be responsible for assessing the impact of its Strategic Plan which will provide the detail of how it intends to deliver on the priorities and objectives set out in the framework document.

Financial Effects

11. A Business and Regulatory Impact assessment ("BRIA") has been completed and accompanied the framework document during the consultation. The impact of the policy on business is negligible. The BRIA is attached.

Scottish Government
Safer Communities Directorate

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