

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (NATIONAL FRAMEWORK) (ENGLAND)
ORDER 2008

2008 No. 1370

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Communities and Local Government and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. **Description**

This instrument gives effect to the Fire and Rescue National Framework prepared by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and entitled “The Fire and Rescue National Framework 2008/11”. This was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 20th May 2008 and shall have effect as a revision of the Fire and Rescue National Framework 2006/08.

3. **Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**

None

4. **Legislative Background**

Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Framework setting out the priorities and objectives for the fire and rescue authorities. The authorities are required to have regard to the Framework. Any significant revision must be brought into effect by order.

5. **Territorial extent and application**

This instrument applies to England.

6. **European Convention on Human Rights**

As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. **Policy background**

7.1 The Framework, published on 20th May 2008, sets out the Government’s priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities and what they should do to achieve them. The Framework also sets out the support the Government will provide. It provides strategic direction from central government while ensuring that authorities continue to make local decisions.

7.2 The Draft Fire and Rescue National Framework was issued for consultation on 6 November 2007.

7.3 47 responses were received as part of the consultation process and, following consideration, they have been reflected in the Framework where appropriate. On the whole consultees were supportive of the move to a 3 year document, a more streamlined narrative and the emphasis placed upon increasing diversity in the Fire and Rescue Service. The Government's full response to the comments has been published on the CLG website.

7.4 Key changes to this National Framework include:

(a) The duration of the 2008/11 Framework is three years, subject to review, compared to the two-year duration of previous Frameworks, to tie in with authorities' budget cycle.

(b) Integrated Risk Management Plans are to contain cross-border arrangements with neighbouring authorities and a strategy for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/1541).

(c) Fire and rescue authorities are required to implement the electronic Incident Recording System by 31st March 2009.

(d) The Framework gives greater priority to the delivery of core resilience objectives such as moving to regional control centres.

(e) The fire and rescue authorities are expected to implement the Fire and Rescue Service's Equality and Diversity Strategy.

(f) Regional Management Boards are expected to ensure that fire and rescue authorities consider collaboration to deliver efficiencies.

(g) Changes which take account of the introduction in 2008 of new duties on the fire and rescue authorities under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

8. Impact

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no impact on the public, private or voluntary sectors is foreseen.

9. Contact

Talia Watson at the Department for Communities and Local Government (Tel: 020 7944 4509 or e-mail: talia.watson@communities.gsi.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding the instrument.