

## Appendix 2

### Safer Communities Directorate

Fire and Rescue Division

John Nicholson

Head of Division

E:  
fireframeworkconsultation@cov.scot

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Dear Consultee

### **FIRE AND RESCUE FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2016 CONSULTATION**

This letter invites your views on the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016 and its strategic key priorities. As part of this consultation exercise we are particularly interested in your views on the current Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 Targets (Annex B) and if these targets should be amended or not.

The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016 is the vehicle, established under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, as amended by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, through which Scottish Ministers set out priorities and objectives that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) must have regard to in carrying out its functions, in terms of public safety, efficiency and effectiveness.

The 10 strategic key priorities within the 2016 Framework sets out Scottish Ministers' expectations of the SFRS and also seeks to provide guidance and support to the SFRS, setting in context the overarching purpose that the SFRS should adhere to in carrying out its functions.

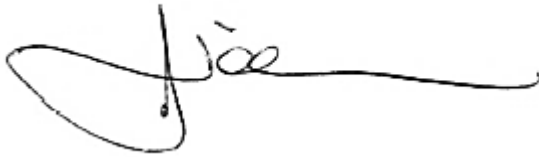
The respondent information form asks for your views concerning the following sections within the framework consultation document:

- Chapter 1 – Protecting Communities: Risk, Prevention and Response;
- Chapter 2 – The Evolving Role of the SFRS;
- Chapter 3 – Governance, Accountability and Performance; and
- The current Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 targets (Annex B)

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An Equality Impact Assessment and a Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment are also available, and I welcome any comments you may have on each of these three documents.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Nicholson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Nicholson  
Head of Fire & Rescue Division  
Safer Communities Directorate

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### Responding to this consultation paper

We are inviting written responses to this consultation paper by **15 June 2016**.  
**Please send your responses with the completed Respondent Information Form to:**

fireframeworkconsultation@gov.scot

or

Fire and Rescue Framework Scotland **2016** Consultation  
Fire and Rescue Division  
Area 1R  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

If you have any queries regarding the consultation please contact Richard Hastings on 0131 244 2388.

We would be grateful if you would use the consultation questionnaire provided or clearly indicate in your response which questions or part of the document that you are responding to as this will assist in our analysis of all the responses received.

This consultation, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Scottish Government website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>.

The Scottish Government has an email alert system for consultations, <http://register.scotland.gov.uk>. This system allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly email containing details of all new consultations (including web links). It complements, but in no way replaces Scottish Government distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up to date with all Scottish Government consultation activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. We would encourage you to register.

### Handling your response

We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. **Please ensure you complete and return the Respondent Information Form which forms part of the consultation questionnaire.** This will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published we will regard it as confidential, and treat it accordingly.

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All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

### **Next steps in the process**

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public on the Scottish Government consultation web pages by **4 July 2016**.

### **What happens next?**

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence. We aim to issue a report on this consultation process by **15 August 2016**.

### **Comments and complaints**

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to:

**Richard Hastings**  
Fire and Rescue Division  
Area 1R  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**[Richard.Hastings@gov.scot](mailto:Richard.Hastings@gov.scot)**

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## FIRE AND RESCUE FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2016

### RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

**Please Note** this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

#### 1. Name/Organisation

Scottish Borders Council

**Title** Mr  x Ms  Mrs  Miss  Dr  Please tick as appropriate

#### Surname

Scott

#### Forename

Douglas

#### 2. Postal Address

Scottish Borders Council

Newtown St Boswells

Roxburghshire

**Postcode** TD6 0SA

**Phone** 01835825155

**Email** dscott@scotborders.gov.uk

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### 3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual / Group/Organisation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Select appropriately	
<p><b>(a)</b> Do you agree to your response being made available to the public? (on the Scottish Government Consultation Hub)</p> <p><b>Please tick as appropriate</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><b>(c)</b> Do you agree to your organisation's <b>details</b> and <b>response</b> being made available to the public? (on the Scottish Government Consultation Hub)</p> <p><b>Please tick as appropriate</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, publish my response and details</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, do not publish my response</p>
<p><b>(b)</b> Please tick <b>ONE</b> of the following boxes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, make my response and name all available</p> <p><b>or</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, make my response available without my name (anonymously)</p>	

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(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

**Please tick as appropriate**

**Yes**

**No**

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### CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree with the 10 strategic priorities attached in **Annex A** to the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  No  x

It is considered that there should be some prioritisation of the strategic priorities with the emphasis on outputs and outcomes related to those in Chapter One i.e. Protecting Communities: Risk, Prevention and Response.

Local Flexibility should be brought out as a strategic priority with the title of the priority extended to be called Supporting Local Accountability and Flexibility. This is because local relationships are absolutely crucial to the future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue service and the local service needs to be able to work and adapt to local needs and requirements with local authorities and other partners. The local service is accountable to the Local Scrutiny Board and this means that there needs to be a strong relationship between the local scrutiny and accountability arrangements and the national service. A Strategic Priority on Supporting Local Accountability and Flexibility would also recognise the role of the Scottish Fire and Rescue service as a statutory partner in community planning.

2. Do you agree with the text set out in the sections **Protecting Communities** and **Prevention and Protection**, in Chapter 1 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  x No

Prevention and protection are vital to the delivery of fire and rescue services.

3. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Responding to Incidents**, in Chapter 1 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  x No

It is important that the needs of rural regions such as the Scottish Borders are fully taken account of in the assessment of national and local risks and that this is fully recognised in the allocation of operational and specialist resources.

4. Do you agree with the text set out in the section **Managing Risk**, in Chapter 1 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  x No



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See the response to Question 3

5. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Evidence Based Decision Making**, in Chapter 1 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  No

No further comments

6. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Working with Others**, in Chapter 1 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  No

More specific consideration should be given in this section on how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will respond to its leadership role as a statutory community planning partner in local areas. This would build on the section which referred to Community Planning in page 24.

7. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Local Flexibility**, in Chapter 1 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  No

As mentioned in answer to Question 1 Supporting Local Accountability and Flexibility needs to be recognised as a Strategic Priority.  
The need for a strong positive relationship between the delivery of national and local fire and rescue services together with effective scrutiny and accountability working arrangements related to this should be brought out in more detail in this Priority.

8. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Driving Improvement and Realising the Benefits of Fire Reform**, in Chapter 2 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  No

9. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **The Future Role of the Firefighter: Productive use of Capacity**, in Chapter 2 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  No

There are significant opportunities to develop the wider role of firefighters as exemplified in the Scottish Borders with the trial to respond to cardiac arrests.

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10. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Modernising Emergency Response**, in Chapter 2 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  x No

The needs and challenges of delivering services in rural areas and small towns should be fully recognised in terms of recruitment, training, staffing and resource allocations.

11. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Telecommunications Systems: Current and Future Use**, in Chapter 2 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  x No

It is important that the service supports the work going on to achieve comprehensive digital connectivity not just for emergency services but for the wider public to assist in the communication about emergency incidents.

12. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals**, in Chapter 2 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  x No

It is good to see recognition of this issue which has been discussed at various meetings of the Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board.

13. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Managing Performance**, in Chapter 3 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  x No

14. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Developing Capacity**, in Chapter 3 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes  x No

It is considered the Developing the Young Workforce agenda presents opportunities for the Scottish Fire and Rescue service to develop relationships with secondary schools and colleges to attract young people to the service, particularly in rural regions such as the Scottish Borders.

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15. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Equalities and Human Rights**, in Chapter 3 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes x No

No comments

16. Do you agree with the text set out in the section, **Community Empowerment and Community Planning** in Chapter 3 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland **2016**?

Yes x No

This section needs to relate to Working with Others above in Question 6. It is considered that greater guidance needs to be given to local fire and rescue services about the role that they are expected to play as statutory partners in community planning i.e. clarification of the range of resources that might be 'pooled' including financial resources.

17. **Annex B** includes the 2013 Framework Targets and we would like to hear your views on whether these should be kept, dropped or amended. We would also like to hear if you think that any new targets should be added for example reduction of unwanted fire alarm signals or how better to measure the economic impact of non-domestic fires?

The targets remain reasonable. It is considered that a target for unwanted signals could be added.

### ANNEX B

#### FIRE FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2013 – TARGETS

##### **1. Fire casualties**

Reduce the rate of fire fatalities and casualties (excluding precautionary checks) per million population by 5% a year based on the previous 3 year rolling average.

##### **2. Reducing special services casualties**

Based on a 3 year rolling average, reduce the rate of casualties and fatalities per million population, each year.

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Special services to be included:

- Road Traffic Collision;
- other transport incident;
- flooding;
- rescue or evacuation from water; and
- other rescue/release of persons

### **3. Reducing the number of accidental dwelling fires by 10% each year**

Comparing a three year rolling average against the previous 3 year average, reduce the rate of accidental dwelling fires per 1,000 households by 10% each year.

Support the target with a measure of 'life risk accidental dwelling fires' – i.e. accidental dwelling fires where there was a casualty or fatality to show how the SFRS impacts the fires that matter.

### **4. Reducing the number of non-domestic fires**

Reduce the rate of non-domestic fires per 1,000 in other buildings from the previous year.

### **5. Reducing firefighter injuries**

Reduce the rate of injuries per staff member (headcount, including volunteers) each year.

Increase attendance – reduce the days lost to sickness so that SFRS at least matches the average of the best 4 pre-2013 fire and rescue services.

### **6. Improving attendance**

Reduce the rate of injuries per staff member (headcount, including volunteers) each year.

Increase attendance – reduce the days lost to sickness so that the SFRS at least matches the average of the best four pre-2013 fire and rescue services.