

Circular number	45/2007	Date issued	26 October 2007
This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This Circular informs you of the publication of a consultation paper “A Centre of Excellence for the Fire and Rescue Service in England”		

A Centre of Excellence for the Fire & Rescue Service in England

Issued by:

Fire & Rescue Service Development 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 Circular invites participation in a consultation exercise on “A Centre of Excellence for the Fire and Rescue Service in England”. The consultation document can be accessed from the Communities and Local Government web site at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/publications/consultations>. Responses, addressed to Christina Machado, FRSD, Room 5B, 19 Allington Towers, Allington Street, London SW1E 5EB, should be made by 31 January 2008 and sent to either the email or postal address given below.

For further information, contact:

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A Centre of Excellence for the Fire & Rescue Service in England

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The consultation paper puts forward options for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for the Fire and Rescue Service in England - a central body with a focused, strategic co-ordinating role to enable the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) to continue to operate effectively both now and in the future.
- 1.2 Whilst the paper indicates support in principle for a Centre of Excellence and sets out a range of options, it does not recommend any preferred outcome. It makes clear that a Centre of Excellence will only be established if it has the support, including financial support, of the FRS and other key stakeholders.
- 1.3 The consultation document seeks views on:
- The need to establish a Centre of Excellence
 - The functions which a Centre of Excellence has the potential to support both in the short term and long term including training delivery and resilience
 - The governance arrangements which should underpin a Centre of Excellence
 - The funding arrangements for a Centre of Excellence including the potential financial contributions from Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to fund the functions which FRAs require the Centre of Excellence to carry out on their behalf
 - The name of a Centre of Excellence
- 1.4 Any comments should be sent either by e-mail to christina.machado@communities.gsi.gov.uk or by post to the following address:
- Christina Machado
Fire & Rescue Service Development Division
Room 5B
Allington Towers
19 Allington Street
London
SW1E 5EB
- 1.5 Responses should be made by 31 January 2008, although earlier responses would be appreciated. Please note that responses, including the names and addresses of respondents, will be made available to anyone who asks for them unless confidentiality is specifically requested or disclosure would prejudice third parties.