

A CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE IN SCOTLAND



RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

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

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Institution of Fire Engineers Scottish Branch

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

Surname

Bennett

Forename

Jim

2. Postal Address

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Postcode

Phone 0131 353 9331

Email president@ife-

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

Group/Organisation

Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(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

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Question 1: Is this the right vision for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?

Yes No Don't know

S2.3 "Emergency Service" ? the base principle of Fire Engineering is Prevention (inherent safety) rather than emergency response (cure). It would be preferable if this was the primary focus.

Implementation could be problematic. There are leading indicators that the SF&RS is not yet a continuously learning organisation. e.g p. 4.23 "collaboration has so far failed to deliver..." Suitable and Sufficient Systems would require to be established with the associated competencies to implement them .Section 2.10.1 could be compromised - 'contributing to economic growth'.

Question 2: Do you agree that these should be the key principles for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?

Yes No Don't know

2.9 -Delivery of Outcomes: ammend to read a A *continuously learning* Service..; People: A Service with a *competency based* workforce..... its employees are *educated*, trained and developed..

Question 3: Do you agree that the option to de-centralise the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service should be considered?

Yes No Don't know

p 20, 4.11 providing local identity and accountability preserved.

Question 4: How well is the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service performing against what you believe to be the key principles and what do you consider to be the priorities for improvement?

Delivery of Outcomes - not yet a continuously learning organisation. People: level of undepinning knowledge and learning requires enhancement. Experiential Learning not fully transferable to systems/firefighters.

Question 5: Do you agree that these should be the desired benefits for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?

Yes No Don't know

Are there others we should add?

European Integration - actively seek collaboration opportunities, in particular in the area of Research and Development

Question 6: What are your views on an appropriate mechanism for Ministers and MSPs to hold the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to account?

Blue Light Committe - providing the appropriate standard of fire safety competence of members is demonstrable.

Question 7: What are your views on an appropriate mechanism for local communities to hold the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to account?

as per S2.16

Question 8: What is the right balance between the national and local mechanisms set out in questions 6 and 7?

Primacy with National Level

Question 9: Do you think that the number of fire and rescue services needs to be reduced?

Yes No Don't know

Provided Section 2.10 Desired Benefits are demonstrable with effective systems and competent personnel for delivery. Organisational Change assessment and implementation includes a 'diagonal slice' of all stakeholders.

Question 10: If so, which option do you think should be pursued and why?

Single service Regional Structure

With Regional Hubs

Question 11: To assist with our Equality Impact Assessment process, please also describe any equality issues (in relation to race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, transgender people and religion) relevant to your chosen option?

Gaelic Communities - bi-lingual communications to ensure all stakeholders 'engaged'.

Question 12: To assist with our Regulatory Impact Assessment, please also describe any financial and other impacts for business, charities and the voluntary sector relevant to your chosen option?

Scotland has diverse communities and harsh environments. Response 'times' e.g in winter conditions should not be underestimated. Short term financial gain by cost cutting could result in excessive emergency response attendance times which could 'destroy' a community. A 'Life Cycle' Loss Control approach should be used.

Question 13: What aspects of collaboration and joint working between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other emergency services do you believe should be a key focus in future?

Ambulance, Police, Mountain Rescue, Marine Rescue

Question 14: Do you think local fire stations should be developed into community resilience hubs, and, if so, what new services would you see them deliver?

Yes No Don't know

Fire, Health and Safety Services - education, coaching and auditing...