



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales**

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08<sup>th</sup> October 2015

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## **Public Consultation Response: Fire and Rescue National Framework 2016 onwards**

Natural Resources Wales brings together the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales, as well as some functions of Welsh Government. Our purpose is to ensure that the environment and natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, used and enhanced, now and in the future.

Thank you for consulting the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Natural Resources Wales) on the above document.

### Consultation Questions:

1. A. Do you agree with the main aspects of the changing context for FRAs which the draft Framework identifies?

Natural Resources Wales supports the consultation proposal.

- B. Are they sufficiently covered throughout the draft Framework?

Yes

2. Do you agree with the main objectives for FRAs set out under the Vision and Key Priorities section (page 5) of the draft Framework?

Natural Resources Wales support's the objectives.

3. Chapters 1-6 set out the priorities we expect FRAs to achieve to support the objectives set out on page 5. Do you agree with these outcomes?

Natural Resources Wales agree with the outcomes.

4. The draft Framework highlights potential for the further diversification of the functions currently undertaken by FRAs and consequently the diversification of the role of fire-fighters. Do you agree with these proposals in principle?

Natural Resources Wales supports the potential diversification and would seek an opportunity to discuss the detail of the proposal implementation. Our incident strategy is that the natural resources, people and economy of Wales benefit from there being less frequent and less severe environmental incidents. The diversification would support our inter agency initiatives for anti-social behaviour, engaging with communities and our prevention agenda for environmental hazard (including flooding) identification and reduction.

5. Do you have any comments on Chapter 1, Continually and Sustainably Reducing Risk and Enhancing the Safety of Citizens and Communities?

Within the collaboration and prevention sections we would wish Natural Resources Wales formally recognized to ensure all opportunities of interagency working together are identified across the FRAs in Wales.

6. Do you have any comments on Chapter 2, responding swiftly and effectively to incidents?

There is an opportunity to align the Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA) community risk assessment with other Category One responders, under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, community risk assessments, especially Natural Resources Wales flood risk assessments for communities and the Local Resilience Forum Community risk assessment. This will ensure sharing of risk identification and assessment across different organizations.

We are supportive of the objective to ensure crewing systems reflect local risk profiles and that they maximize the efficient use of resources. Risks are spread across Wales or are geographically collected and local risk identification should be the foundation of the allocation of effective resource.

Citizen and community safety is at the core of any flooding response and we are supportive to explore the formalisation the provision and co-ordination of a FRA flood response.

7. Do you have any comments on Chapter 3, Being clearly and publicly accountable for delivery and funding, manifesting the highest standards of governance?

Natural Resources Wales agree with the outcomes

8. Do you have any comments on Chapter 4, Maintaining downward pressure on costs and taking all opportunities to realise efficiencies?

In regard to opportunities for efficiency we would agree that operating models would need governance and accountability to maintain public safety for local demand and risks.

9. Do you have any comments on Chapter 5, Working effectively with partners to improve efficiency and citizen and community well-being?

Natural Resources Wales agree with the outcomes with special note of the sharing of intelligence through the National Issues Committee.

10. Do you have any comments on Chapter 6, Valuing and developing the workforce to the highest standards?

Natural Resources Wales agree with the outcomes and would seek an opportunity to discuss opportunities to include joint interagency training initiatives across respective public services that respond to the respective incidents.

11. Do you feel that the roles and responsibilities for FRAs and other agencies in Chapter 7 are clearly set out?

Natural Resources Wales agree with the outcomes

12. Do you have any other comments about the proposed changes?

As above.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself if you have any questions.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully



Paul Edmonds

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