

POLICY NOTE

THE SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (FRAMEWORK) ORDER 2022

SSI 2022/119

1. The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers contained in section 40(4) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”). The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure. The instrument extends only to Scotland.

Purpose of the Instrument

2. The 2005 Act was amended by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 (“the 2012 Act”), which established a single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (“the SFRS”) to replace the existing fire and rescue authorities and joint fire and rescue boards. The 2012 Act further amended the 2005 Act to require that a framework document be prepared in relation to the new Service. The purpose of this Order is to bring into effect the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2022 (“the framework document”) on 26 May 2022. The Scottish Ministers have prepared the framework document under section 40(1) of the 2005 Act.

Policy Objectives

3. The framework document sets out priorities and objectives for SFRS in connection with the carrying out of its statutory functions. It also contains such guidance, and other matters relating to SFRS and its functions, as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate. It replaces the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016.

4. Section 41(1) of the 2005 Act requires SFRS to have regard to the framework document in carrying out its functions. Section 41A(4) requires SFRS to have regard to the framework document when preparing its strategic plan.

5. The framework document was published in March 2022 and is available on the Scottish Government’s website: <https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781804351024>

6. Article 3 of the Order revokes the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Framework) Order 2016 (S.S.I. 2016/249), which brought the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016 into effect.

Consultation

7. The framework document was subject to full public consultation from 29 September 2021 to 22 December 2021. This involved all statutory consultees listed in section 40 of the 2005 Act. The Scottish Government received 48 responses to the consultation which were broadly supportive and constructive. A full list of those consulted and who agreed to the release of this information is attached to the consultation analysis report published on the Scottish Government website at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-rescue-framework-scotland-2022-consultation-analysis-report/>. It includes:

- Fire Brigades Union
- Audit Scotland
- Fire and Rescue Services Association
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

8. The framework document sets out Scottish Ministers' expectations of SFRS and asks the Service to explore new ways of working to allow it to contribute an even greater role in the protection of Scotland's communities.

Impact Assessments

9. A partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment, an Equality Impact Assessment, a Child Rights and Wellbeing Assessment and a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment have been prepared in support of the framework document. Copies may be obtained online at www.gov.scot.

10. SFRS will be responsible for assessing the impact of its Strategic Plan which will provide the detail of how it intends to deliver on the priorities and objectives set out in the framework document.

Financial Effects

11. A partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment ("BRIA") has been completed and accompanied the framework document during the consultation. The impact of the policy on business is negligible.

Scottish Government
Safer Communities Directorate
March 2022