

To: All Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities Chairs and Chief Fire Officers in England, all affected Police and Crime Commissioners in England, Local Authorities who form all or part of a Combined FRA and the Local Government Association's (LGA) Fire Services Management Committee.

27 November 2017

Dear Colleague,

Consultation on the proposed amendments to Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) combination schemes established under sections 2 and 4 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 in England.

I would like to draw your attention to the attached consultation paper which sets out a proposal to vary the combination schemes of section 2 and 4 FRAs established or continued in existence under the 2004 Act for the purposes of applying the 'representation model' of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 (2017 Act).

Representation model

Where a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has not taken on responsibility for fire but wishes to enhance collaboration opportunities, they are able to be represented on any FRA (or its committees) in their local area, with voting rights, subject to the consent of the FRA. This will enable the PCC to take part in discussions and decisions in a meaningful and effective way whilst fostering closer collaborative working between PCCs and local fire and rescue services.

Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities established under sections 2 and 4 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 must have their combination schemes amended before the 'representation model' introduced by the 2017 Act can apply.

Consultation

We now seek your views on the proposal to vary the combination schemes of FRAs established or continued existence under section 2 and 4 of the 204 Fire and Rescue Services Act to implement the 'representation model' of the 2017 Act.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for participating in this consultation, which seeks to implement fully the provisions of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, and for continuing to drive greater emergency services collaboration in the interests of your communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Hurd".

Minister for Policing and the Fire Service