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# Achieving Design Quality in Fire and Rescue Service Buildings

## Issued by:

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Fire and Resilience Policy 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 provides information on the Department's design quality guidance for the Fire and Rescue Service to consider when undertaking new building projects. The design guidance's aim is to ensure that design is included as part of the project management process.

## For further information, contact:

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## Achieving Design Quality in Fire and Rescue Service Buildings

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 On 19 December, Fire Minister Parmjit Dhanda officially launched the Communities and Local Government design guidance for Fire and Rescue Service buildings at Millwall Fire Station- London. Although drafted with future PFI projects in mind, the guidance is applicable more widely to any FRS building project.

### 2.0 Background

2.1 This guidance document has been developed to encourage better quality buildings in the Fire and Rescue Service in line with the Government's 'better public buildings' policy and the need for FRAs to engage with the community.

### 3.0 Details

3.1 'Achieving Design Quality in Fire and Rescue Service Buildings' has been produced in partnership with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and with the assistance of individuals in the FRS and others.

3.2 It is aimed at helping in the building design process to ensure delivery of high quality, robust, environmentally friendly buildings which are community focused and that provide good working conditions for those working in them.

3.3 FRS buildings need to reflect the changing role of the FRS - many of them now need to provide a community focus as well as an operational base for FRAs in order to assist them in carrying out their work within the community on fire prevention.

3.4 The publication is not about what is good and bad design but gives guidance on setting the conditions to achieve good design.

3.5 One of the important messages in the publication is the need to consider design early on in any construction project. This means engaging with stakeholders and others, finding out their aspirations and considerations etc. right at the start.

3.6 The guide is available to all on the Department's website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/designquality>.

**David Green**

**Fire and Resilience Policy Division**