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This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular provides information on grant funding totalling £16.7m awarded to FRAs in relation to the New Dimension programme.		

New Dimension FRSNCC and USAR Grant Funding

Issued by:

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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:

**Treasurers
Directors of Finance**

Summary

This circular provides information on grant funding being awarded to Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in relation to the New Dimension programme for the Fire and Rescue Service National Co-ordination centre (FRSNCC) and urban search and rescue (USAR).

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The New Dimension programme, as a collaboration between Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), has enhanced the ability of the FRS to respond to major disruptive events involving CBRN materials, collapsed or unstable structures, and to displace large volumes of water.
- 1.2 Government has invested over £200 million in the New Dimension capability, of which most of this investment has been directly spent through national procurement of equipment, training and other areas. In line with the new burdens principle, CLG is committed to provide new burdens funding in recognition of the additional costs faced by Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) as a result of hosting, and in due course owning, New Dimension assets.
- 1.3 This Circular sets out the funding that is being awarded to FRAs for expenditure incurred or to be incurred in 2007/08. The areas which this Circular covers include:
- Fire and Rescue Service National Co-ordination Centre (FRSNCC)
 - Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) crewing
 - USAR Strategic Reserve
 - New Dimension Accommodation
 - USAR Consumables
 - USAR Dog Teams.

2.0 Funding Approach

- 2.1 All funding referred to in this Circular has been awarded under the provisions of section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and is not ring-fenced. A copy of the New Dimension National Co-ordination Centre and Urban Search and Rescue Grant Determination 2007/08 (No. 31/1000), detailing amounts for individual FRAs, is attached. Payment of all funding will be arranged by this Department by the end of January 2008 via BACS.

3.0 New Dimension FRSNCC

- 3.1 The FRSNCC was established in 2005 to co-ordinate New Dimension assets, monitoring their availability and facilitating their mobilisation to serious incidents, such as the high volume pumps during the summer floods. The FRSNCC's functions are described fully in Fire Service Circular (FSC) 30-2006. It is hosted by West Yorkshire FRS.
- 3.2 Initial funding for the FRSNCC of £1,184,627 was provided to West Yorkshire in November 2005 to cover the FRSNCC start-up costs, and subsequent on-going costs until March 2007. The current funding provision, £559,808, covers resource costs for 2007/08. The funding amount is based on the agreed estimated budget for the functioning of the FRSNCC this year.

4.0 New Dimension Crewing

4.1 Ministers announced at Fire 2004 that CLG would provide up to £16 million per year from 2005/6 to help meet the cost of crewing the second phase of the New Dimension programme (for the purposes of this circular this means USAR). FSC 16-2007 established crewing funding at £719,942 per fully crewed USAR team.

4.2 Following discussions with USAR FRAs and the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA), crewing costs for 2007/08 have been established as £764,075 for a full USAR team based on a team of 30 personnel. West Sussex FRS provides the USAR strategic reserve and will receive half of this funding. The increase in costs is owing to both the annual firefighter pay increase and the incorporation of a standard allowance in line with nationally agreed firefighter terms and conditions, to ensure 24/7 USAR operational response. Total funding amounts to **£14,899,463** between those FRAs hosting the USAR capabilities.

5.0 USAR Strategic Reserve

5.1 Funding totalling **£43,000** will be provided to West Sussex County Council to cover costs relating to training and personal protective equipment based on half the funding provided previously to each USAR Team.

6.0 New Dimension Accommodation

6.1 In January 2006, FSC 3-2006 provided information on the New Dimension accommodation strategy and set out the criteria for funding accommodation work. FSC 9-2007, issued in February 2007, announced that CLG would provide funding for FRAs hosting USAR assets in recognition of the costs of constructing local training facilities (LTFs) to enable maintenance of skills training to be undertaken locally.

6.2 Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority have been awarded one-off funding totalling **£189,500** to cover their costs in relation to both their New Dimension accommodation and USAR LTF. This completes both Stage B of the accommodation strategy and funding relating to the provision of USAR LTFs.

7.0 USAR Consumables

7.1 FSC 9-2007 also announced continuation funding relating to the use of timber as part of USAR capability training for major incidents. In this Circular the Department confirmed funding of £10,000 for each USAR team and £5,000 to the USAR strategic reserve per annum in recognition of the costs to them of timber replenishment.

7.2 Furthermore, following the construction of the USAR LTFs as referred to in paragraph 6.1 above, CLG recognises that USAR teams will use considerable quantities of concrete slabs as part of their training for major incidents. The Department has therefore agreed to award each USAR team £20,000 and £10,000 to the strategic reserve in recognition of concrete replenishment requirements. Total funding for the USAR consumables amounts to **£585,000**.

7.3 As previously noted, timber bought for USAR must, as a minimum, meet the C16 specification for construction grade timber. (Guidance has been issued under separate cover by the New Dimension USAR team to provide greater detail in this respect). The Department also strongly encourages that the purchase of wood is made from sustainable sources.

8.0 USAR Dog Teams

8.1 The New Dimension USAR project has always envisaged that canine teams would become an integral element of the USAR capability given their considerable ability to undertake wide-area searches to locate people trapped by collapsed structures. Following significant discussion with host USAR FRAs and CFOA, CLG has agreed that each USAR team should have a search and rescue dog as part of its capability, amounting to 20 dogs in total. This is the final part of the USAR capability to be put in place.

8.2 Initial set-up funding for each dog for 2007/08 totals £20,274 per USAR team which covers procurement of the dog, a contribution towards transportation costs, training for both the dogs and their handlers and other associated costs. The intention is that the handlers will be drawn from the existing USAR teams whose crewing costs are already funded by CLG (see section 4 above). Total funding amounts to **£429,480**, between the host USAR FRAs.

8.3 Leicestershire Fire Authority has been established as the lead authority for the USAR canine capability and will be funded an additional £24k for a part-time role to ensure that the training and coaching/assessments for the dogs and handlers is co-ordinated, the capability is established, and the canine availability rota is managed.

8.4 The Department's expectation is that in the main USAR FRSs will wish to co-locate the dogs with their USAR teams. However we are aware that some FRSs are not favourable to hosting a canine capability and on this basis CLG is content that the funding can be used to contract-in a dog and handler to provide the same level of capability. Any further costs resulting from contracting-in a dog and handler will be a matter for the FRA and CLG will not fund any additional costs resulting from this.

Bethan Macdonald
New Dimension Policy Advisor

NEW DIMENSION NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION CENTRE AND URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE GRANT DETERMINATION 2007/8 (No. 31/1000)

Parmjit Dhanda, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government (“the Minister”), in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 31 and 32 of the Local Government Act 2003, makes the following determination:

Citation

- 1) This determination may be cited as the New Dimension National Co-ordination Centre and Urban Search and Rescue Grant Determination 2007/8 (No. 31/1000).

Purpose of the grant

- 2) The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them.

Determination

- 3) The Minister determines as the authorities to which grant is payable the authorities listed in the table in Annex A.

Part 1: National Co-ordination Centre

- 4) Part 1 of the grant, which may be cited as the ‘National Co-ordination Centre element of the New Dimension National Co-ordination Centre and Urban Search and Rescue Grant’, is in recognition of extra costs facing West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority in connection with its function of co-ordinating specialist fire and rescue services resources in England.
 - 5) The Minister determines that a grant of £559,808 will be paid to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. The grant is listed in Column A of the table in Annex A.
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Part 2: Urban Search and Rescue Crewing

- 6) Part 2 of the grant, which may be cited as the ‘Urban Search and Rescue crewing element of the New Dimension National Co-ordination Centre and Urban Search and Rescue Grant’, is in recognition of extra costs facing Urban Search and Rescue authorities in employing personnel to staff the Urban Search and Rescue equipment.
 - 7) The Minister determines as the amounts of grant payable to each of the authorities under Part 2 of the grant the amounts listed in Column B of the table in Annex A.
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Part 3: Urban Search and Rescue Strategic Reserve

- 8) Part 3 of the grant, which may be cited as the ‘Urban Search and Rescue Strategic Reserve element of the New Dimension National Co-ordination Centre and Urban Search and Rescue Grant’, is in recognition of extra costs facing West Sussex County Council in connection with Urban Search and Rescue training and personal protective equipment.

- 9) The Minister determines that an amount of £43,000 will be paid to West Sussex County Council. The grant is listed in Column B of the table in Annex A.
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Part 4: Urban Search and Rescue Accommodation

- 10) Part 4 of the grant, which may be cited as the 'Urban Search and Rescue accommodation element of the New Dimension National Co-ordination Centre and Urban Search and Rescue Grant 2007/8', is in recognition of extra costs facing Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Authority in connection with accommodation for their Urban Search and Rescue equipment; and associated training rig.
- 11) The Minister determines that an amount of £189,500 will be paid to Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Authority. The grant is listed in Column D of the table in Annex A.
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Part 5: Urban Search and Rescue Consumables

- 12) Part 5 of the grant, which may be cited as the 'Urban Search and Rescue Consumables element of the New Dimension National Co-ordination Centre and Urban Search and Rescue Grant', is in recognition of extra costs facing Urban Search and Rescue authorities in connection with replenishment of timber and consumables for Urban Search and Rescue Local Training Facilities.
- 13) The Minister determines as the amounts of grant payable to each of the authorities under Part 5 of the grant the amounts listed in Column E of the table in Annex A.
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Part 6: Urban Search and Rescue Canine Search Teams

- 14) Part 6 of the grant, which may be cited as the 'Urban Search and Rescue Canine Search Teams element of the New Dimension National Co-ordination Centre and Urban Search and Rescue Grant', is in recognition of extra costs facing Urban Search and Rescue authorities in connection with the provision of search dogs in support of Urban Search and Rescue operations.
- 15) The Minister determines as the amounts of grant payable to each of the authorities under Part 6 of the grant the amounts listed in Column F of the table in Annex A.
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Conditions on the grant under s31(4) and s32

- 16) The Minister determines that grant paid to the Greater London Authority under this determination is conditional on those monies being transferred by the Mayor in full to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA).

Treasury consent

- 17) Before making this determination, the Minister obtained the consent of the Treasury.

Signed by authority of Parmjit Dhanda, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Handwritten signature of Parmjit Dhanda in black ink, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Department for Communities and Local Government

20 December 2007

ANNEX A

Schedule of authorities

Authorities	Part 1 grant (Column A)	Part 2 grant (Column B)	Part 3 grant (Column C)	Part 4 grant (Column D)	Part 5 grant (Column E)	Part 6 grant (Column F)***	TOTAL GRANT PAYABLE
Avon Fire Authority		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority		£764,075		£189,500 *	£30,000	£20,274	£1,003,849
Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
Essex Fire Authority		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
Greater London Authority		£3,056,300			£120,000	£81,096	£3,257,396
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority		£764,075			£30,000	£44,274	£838,349
Lincolnshire County Council		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
Norfolk County Council		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Authority		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349
West Midlands		£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£814,349

Fire and Rescue Authority							
West Sussex County Council		£382,038	£43,000**		£15,000	£20,274	£460,312
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	£559,808	£764,075			£30,000	£20,274	£1,374,157
Total	£559,808	£14,899,463	£43,000	£189,500	£585,000	£429,480	£16,706,251

* This is all capital.

** £19,000 of this is capital.

*** £10,105 for all figures in column F is capital with the exception of the Greater London Authority of which £40,420 is capital.