

Circular number	59/2008	Date issued	5 November 2008
This circular is	For information	Respond by	19 January 2009
This circular is	Not relevant to the National Framework		
Status	To inform Fire and Rescue Authorities about the publication of a consultation paper on statutory guidance - Best Value and Procurement: Workforce Matters in Best Value Authority Contracting		

Publication of a consultation paper on statutory guidance - Best Value and Procurement: Workforce Matters in Best Value Authority Contracting

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:

Summary

This Circular is to inform Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) that Communities and Local Government published a consultation paper on statutory guidance - *Best Value and Procurement: Workforce Matters in Best Value Authority Contracting* - on 27 October 2008. The deadline for responding to the consultation paper is 19 January 2009.

For further information, contact:

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1.0 Best Value and Procurement: Workforce Matters in Best Value Authority Contracting – Statutory Guidance: Draft for Consultation

- 1.1 On 27 October, Communities and Local Government published the consultation paper on statutory guidance - *Best Value and Procurement: Workforce Matters in Best Value Authority Contracting*. The draft guidance seeks to update and refresh existing guidance contained in ODPM Circular 03/2003, found in the Local Government section at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/odpmcircu larbest>, and comprises:
- *Valuing the Workforce* - key workforce principles which authorities should consider when delivering services
 - *Handling of Workforce Matters in Contracting* - how workforce matters can be handled at the different stages of the contractual process
 - The *Code of Practice on Workforce Matters In Best Value Authority Service Contracts* - the “Two Tier Code”
- 1.2 Key changes for consultation on the Two Tier Code include:
- streamlined arrangements with a single and simpler suite of guidance for all authorities
 - extending the guidance and arrangements to Joint Waste Disposal Authorities and any future Joint Waste Authorities
 - clarification on the application of the Code to re-tenders of contracts first entered into before the original Code was published
- 1.3 The guidance also sets out the position on monitoring and audit arrangements under the Comprehensive Area Assessment.
- 1.4 The press notice can be found at: www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1003814 and the publication is at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bestvalueprocur ement.
- 1.5 Responses to the consultation can be sent to LTIE@communities.gsi.gov.uk with a closing date of 19 January 2009.
- 1.6 Please contact Andrew Cornelius on 020 7944 8766 if you would like to discuss this further.

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