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LONDON FIRE & EMERGENCY PLANNING AUTHORITY

FIRE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIRECTORATE

Ron Dobson, QFSM, Assistant Commissioner (Service Delivery)

Date 13th June, 2007

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Please reply to
Ron Dobson

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Dear Mr Barnes,

Please find attached an update of the London Fire Brigade's response to the GLA 7 July Review Committee Report.

Yours sincerely,

Ron Dobson
Assistant Commissioner (Service Delivery)
London Fire Brigade

making London a safer city

The London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority runs the London Fire Brigade Sir Ken Knight, CBE QFSM MIFireE
Commissioner for Fire & Emergency Planning

This note updates the London Fire Brigade response to the London Assembly recommendations following the bombings of 7 July 2005

Report of the 7 July Review Committee

Findings and Recommendations

Recommendation 5

We recommend that the Metropolitan Police Service, London Fire Brigade and London Ambulance Service provide us with an update on the rollout of digital radio systems within their services in November 2006, May 2007 and November 2007, so that we can monitor progress towards full implementation of TETRA-based radio communications across London's emergency services.

Update from the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

As previously reported to the Committee, the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority is participating fully in the national Firelink project, led by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

In March 2007, the DCLG announced that it had signed off Milestone 1 of the Firelink contract and launched Phase A of the Firelink roll-out. During this phase, the resilience and coverage of the existing Airwave network will be improved to match the requirements of the London Fire Brigade. Once fully operational, Firelink in London is contractually guaranteed to reach 99.94% of landmass, the highest proportion of any Firelink region.

The LFEPA capital programme allocation for this project is as follows:

- £3.4 million in 2007/8, including £0.6 million in staffing costs
- £2.7 million in 2008/9
- £0.2 million in 2009/10.

Firelink in London is currently due to roll out between April and November 2008.

As an interim measure, the London Fire Brigade have taken early delivery of 69 Airwave terminals, to order to allow key staff and specialist officers to use the service and to access the interagency talkgroups.

Recommendation 7

We recommend that emergency plans be amended so that, when an incident takes place in an Underground tunnel, the emergency services are deployed to the stations closest to the trains in either direction.

Update from the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

As discussed at the meeting of the Committee in November 2006, the London Fire Brigade has already implemented a system of unique reference numbers to assist our attendance to underground stations. Since then we have been working closely with colleagues in the London Ambulance Service on this issue and we understand that, from July, LAS will be using the London Fire Brigade's existing coding system. This will help ensure that both services can identify underground locations of any incident as precisely as possible as well as the nearest access point and help secure a rapid and co-ordinated response. We are shortly to begin similar discussions with the Metropolitan Police Service.

Recommendation 14

Members of the London Resilience Forum should put in place regular checks to ensure that key officers are equipped with ACCOLC-enabled mobile phones. We request that the emergency and transport services provide us with details of their plans to conduct such reviews, showing what will be done, and how frequently, to ensure that the technology can actually be effectively used if necessary.

Update from the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

The London Fire Brigade has now deployed over 200 ACCOLC enabled mobile phones. These are issued to all Group Managers and above, and a small number of Station Managers in key locations.

This is intended to provide some additional communications resilience at large emergency incidents. Each of the Command Units also has ACCOLC SIMs in their mobile telephones.

The list of officers issued with ACCOLC phones is reviewed every six months by LFB.

Allocation is limited by the number of SIM cards available. LFB is currently in discussions with the Cabinet Office to secure an increase in the number authorised to ensure that all Station Managers and above will in future have ACCOLC capable mobile telephones, and we expect agreement to be reached in the next few months.