

NEWS RELEASE



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Better information, improved delivery for fire and rescue services

A clear partnership approach built on the sharing of accurate information is critical to delivering a modernised fire service focused on prevention and community fire safety, according to Northgate Information Solutions.

In a response to the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework, Northgate today called for greater emphasis to be placed on integrating risk management with workforce development and human resources. It also recommended that the government should think again about introducing the use of penalty notices in the enforcement regime.

Speaking today, David Meaden, Managing Director of Northgate Public Services, said:

“We welcome the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework as a major step towards harnessing national, regional and local resources to build and develop a proactive fire and rescue service aimed at promoting community well-being through the prevention of harm.

“Integrated risk management programmes are already making a difference to local communities. But all too often communities are let down by the fact that fire and rescue services may have difficulty obtaining vital data and are unable to share intelligence and information in a timely and cost effective manner.

“The fire service faces an enormous challenge and cultural sea-change. Government needs to consider using a more integrated approach to collecting and using information so that an effective and efficient service can be delivered on the ground.”

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors

1. Northgate is a technology services company with a difference. It is committed to high quality public services and understands the public sector. That knowledge is core to its business. Its task is to enhance public sector value through intelligent use of people and information technology systems and to share in the economic and social benefits that this brings.
2. Northgate works with fire and rescue, police and ambulance services, helping them to reassure local people by improving response times and co-ordinating services. It works in partnership with a number of UK fire brigades to develop innovative solutions for analysing patterns of risk.

3. A copy of the full response is attached.