

26th November 2003

Fire and Rescue Services Bill recognises prevention better than cure

Northgate today welcomed the announcement of a Fire and Rescue Services Bill within the Queen's Speech as an important step forward in modernising the UK Fire Service. Placing greater emphasis on prevention through a new duty to promote fire safety is essential to delivering an improved service.

Speaking today, Dave Meaden, managing director of Northgate public sector said:

"Fire prevention as well as intervention is of critical importance to ensure community fire safety. Responsive emergency services are at the heart of citizens' needs, and we welcome the establishment of core duties to reflect the changing role of the Fire and Rescue Service."

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors

1. Northgate is a technology 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 assists local authorities and the emergency services to promote community well-being by helping them provide citizens with accessible and responsive one-stop services.
3. Northgate works with police, fire and ambulance services, helping them to reassure local people by improving response times and co-ordinating services. We work in partnership with a number of UK fire brigades to develop innovative solutions for analysing patterns of risk, including West Midlands Fire Service whose Integrated Risk Management Plan is currently out for public consultation.