

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Scotland's fire service needs Scottish control**

Local control and delivery are essential to delivering a truly citizen-centred fire service, according to Northgate Information Solutions.

In a response to the Executive's consultation on Scottish Fire Control Rooms, Northgate called for a national system for Scotland with two regional fire control rooms.

This will enable Scotland's fire brigades to deliver a responsive service that harnesses the full benefits of local risk management and resource deployment whilst remaining capable of responding to cross-border emergencies.

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

"It is essential that the processes and procedures used by Scotland's fire and rescue services are appropriate to meet the particular challenges of operating in Scotland. Local knowledge and information is critical to responding quickly and appropriately to emergencies. So too is local deployment of resources backed up by effective risk management strategies. Scotland's fire service needs systems which are capable of interfacing with those in England and Wales. Collaboration is essential in establishing control rooms, but uniformity is not."

-ENDS-

#### **For further information:**

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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.
2. Northgate's 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.
3. Northgate works with fire and rescue, police 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.