Fire and Rescue Service

Circular

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This circular is | For information |  | No response required
This circular is | Relevant to the National Framework |  |  
Status | Announcement on 19 April 2007 that Telefonica has sold O2 Airwave (Firelink contractor) to the Macquarie Bank Group. |  |  

Telefonica Sale of O2 Airwave

Issued by:
Regina Haba
Fire and Resilience Policy

Addressed to: | Please forward to:
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The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority | The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council | 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 Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority | The Commissioner of the London Fire and
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority | Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer | The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer

Summary
Announcement on 19 April 2007 that Telefonica has sold O2 Airwave (Firelink contractor) to the Macquarie Bank Group.

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1.0 **Introduction**

1.1 As you may know from articles that appeared in newspapers yesterday the ownership of O2 Airwave has passed from Telefonica, the parent company, to the Macquarie Bank group. Macquarie has invested in a number of European infrastructure companies in recent years including Arqiva, which provides operational and maintenance services to some Fire and Rescue Services.

1.2 During the sale process Communities and Local Government representatives have been working with colleagues in the Home Office (National Policing Improvement Agency), Department of Health and Office of Government Commerce to ensure that the terms and conditions of any sale did not present any unacceptable risk.

2.0 **Firelink**

2.1 The provision of the Firelink radio system to the Fire and Rescue Service is not changed by the sale of O2 Airwave. Under the terms of the contract, any new owner will be required to deliver the contract as it stands. The contract cannot be amended without Government agreement.

2.2 Although any change of ownership is potentially unsettling, there is provision in the sale agreement for Macquarie to retain ownership of O2 Airwave for a minimum period of ten years. This affords a degree of confidence that there are no material risks stemming from the ownership change and it should be business as usual as we roll-out Firelink to the Fire and Rescue Services.

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