

Primary Authority Scheme

From 6 April 2014 businesses, charities or other organisations which operate across more than one local authority fire enforcement area, have been able to enter into partnerships with fire and rescue services in England and Wales. This enables a single Fire Service to become their single point of contact for all fire safety regulation advice.

You can choose which fire and rescue service that you would like to enter into a Primary Authority Scheme with; it doesn't have to be the one nearest to your head office or in the county where you have the greatest number of outlets.

Importantly, a Primary Authority Scheme is a partnership arrangement so you should take time to ensure that the fire and rescue service that you choose to partner with is right for your business and can offer what you are hoping to get out of the scheme.

A business that chooses to participate in Primary Authority is demonstrating a commitment to working in partnership with regulators, and a desire to build a positive experience of local and national regulation. The scheme enables primary authorities to develop positive relationships with such businesses, sowing the seeds for a new way of regulating businesses that are committed to compliance.

The scheme is a common sense HM Government initiative to cut red tape and support economic growth through better regulation. It is one of the most effective ways for fire safety regulators to improve protection and support their business communities whilst allowing fire authorities to recover reasonable costs from its partner organisations.

The principles of Primary Authority are set out in the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 (the RES Act). The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, which received Royal Assent on 25 April 2013, amended the RES Act, broadening the eligibility criteria for participation in Primary Authority, and strengthening inspection plans.

Key elements of a partnership with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority is committed to engaging in positive business partnerships, chargeable on a purely cost-recovery basis, tailored specifically to your business's needs and we can provide:-

- Allocation of a dedicated officer and/or team who will get to know and understand your business and preferred methods of operation and approach to compliance whilst respecting confidential matters.
- Robust, reliable advice and expertise to reduce the risk and cost of non-compliance.
- Liaison with other Authorities to provide a single point of contact for all compliance issues.
- "Assured Advice" to your business, giving you confidence that your chosen methods of compliance will be treated consistently across England and Wales.
- Where appropriate, SYFR may direct other Enforcing Authorities not to serve proposed Enforcement Notices that we regard as inconsistent with "Assured Advice", already provided to you.
- Where appropriate, a national "Inspection Plan", to ensure inspections by other regulators or Local Authorities are focused on key issues saving both your and their time and resources.

- A comprehensive, professional and impartial review of your Fire Safety policies, procedures, processes and staff training from a regulatory compliance perspective.
- The recording of all appropriate partnership details and arrangements within the secure on-line Primary Authority Register provided by the Better Regulation Delivery Office. This ensures that all the key information about our partnership with you is available to other Local Authority regulators.

If you think your business could benefit from forming a Primary Authority Partnership with SYFR, please contact our TFS office on Tel: 01142 532970 or email

<mailto:tfspartnerships@syfire.gov.uk>

To get an idea of the range, types and sizes of businesses already benefitting from the scheme or for more information and supporting documents on PAS visit

<https://primaryauthorityregister.info/par/index.php/home>