

Emergency Planning News

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Police and Fire Service Reform

On 12 January 2011 Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill announced that a public consultation will take place regarding the future of the police and fire services.

Mr MacAskill told the Scottish Parliament a consultation will be launched to discuss three reform options for both services - eight separate boards with enhanced collaboration; a regional structure with fewer boards; and a single service.

The Justice Secretary said the Scottish Government wanted to move to a single fire service and he set out the arguments for the single force and regional force options for police with the objective of achieving a consensus on the way forward for both services.

He said that the current structure of fire and police in Scotland was not tenable and must be changed to ensure local services in all of Scotland's communities are maintained in the face of the impending financial challenges imposed by Westminster.

The separate consultations on fire and police reform will run at the same time and their conclusions will be submitted to the Christie Commission to help inform the wider work being done to reform the public sector in Scotland.

The consultation documents can be found on the following links:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/341417/0113500.pdf>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/341434/0113503.pdf>



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Major Fire, Edinburgh 11 January 2011

Around 11pm on Tuesday 11 January 2011 , Lothian and Borders Fire & Rescue Service received several 999 calls to report a fire in the basement area of No.4 Rankeillor Street, Edinburgh. On arrival fire-fighters discovered a large volume of smoke coming out of the building.

The fire subsequently spread to adjoining properties on Rankeillor Street and Clerk Street. More than 40 fire-fighters were involved in tackling the blaze.

Four residents from No.4 were rescued by fire-fighters using ladders. Twelve people were treated at the scene by the Scottish Ambulance Service, two of whom were subsequently taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary suffering from smoke inhalation.

At the height of the incident more than 40 fire-fighters, some using breathing apparatus, were needed to extinguish the fire and ensure all the occupants were led to safety.

The Red Cross vehicle based at Tollcross fire station attended to support the affected residents.

An investigation into the cause of the blaze is underway.



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Tornado Incident September 2010

On 11 January 2011 the [UK Airprox Board](#) released information that two RAF Tornado fighter planes had a near-miss over the Scottish Borders.

The incident happened on 8 September 2010 near Galashiels when the jets were engaged in low-level training runs - travelling at more than 500mph (800km/h).

The Civil Aviation Authority classed the incident as a Category A - just one step down from a mid-air collision. Its investigation found the second Tornado had come into the area 2 minutes in advance of its allotted time.

A "night deconfliction report" from RAF Lossiemouth showed the area was allocated to one aircraft's unit between 1930 and 2045 GMT and the other unit from 2046 to 2200 GMT.

The near-miss happened at 2044 GMT when the jets crossed each other's path about 150ft (45m) apart.

The CAA found the second Tornado was in the area just outside its allotted time but said the main cause of the incident was that despite good weather, and relatively clear terrain, the aircraft simply did not see each other.

It said the crew of the first aircraft would not have expected another jet in the area.

The crew of the second Tornado, although correctly qualified, was said to be relatively inexperienced.

They were operating the aircraft using automated terrain following radar for ground avoidance, monitored by night/visual equipment and their first priority would have

been, as the UKAB report concluded, terrain avoidance at low level.

An MOD spokesperson said 'Military flying and particularly fast jet operations are highly demanding, but rigorous military procedures ensure that the risks are reduced to as low as reasonably practicable.

"The Ministry of Defence takes each Air Prox incident very seriously. "All are investigated thoroughly and the MoD encourages full and open reporting of incidents so that lessons can be learned and flight safety risk reduced to the lowest practicable level."

Coincidentally Scottish Borders Council held an exercise (Exercise Wingtip) a few weeks prior to the incident which dealt with issues surrounding a mid-air military aircraft collision.

Further information on this exercise can be obtained from Jim Fraser at Scottish Borders Council.

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RECOVERY WORKSHOP

27 January 2011

Lothian and Borders SCG ran a recovery workshop on 27 January 2011 at the Torness Strategic Co-ordination Centre.

The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the new Preparing Scotland Recovery Guidance and to explore managing recovery from emergencies as part of a multi-agency response.

A wide range of participants took part from the Emergency Services, Local Authorities, Health Boards and voluntary agencies.

The workshop was aimed at Tactical Managers and complemented the Strategic Recovery event that was held last year.



Tactical Managers Seminar

17 February 2011

Lothian and Borders SCG in association with the Scottish Resilience Development Service (ScoRDS) ran a Tactical Manager's Seminar at the Torness Strategic Co-ordination Centre on Thursday 17 February 2011.

The seminar's aims were to enable Tactical Managers to contribute to their own organisation's response in an emergency and provide support to a Strategic Co-ordinating Group.

The learning outcomes were to:

- Identify the challenges of Crisis Management
- Demonstrate team co-operation and personal interaction
- Illustrate the ability to contribute to an SCG or multi-agency forum
- Understand the impact of stress on decision making

36 Participants from a range of organisations including the Emergency Services, Local Authorities, Health Boards and Voluntary agencies took part in the seminar which gave an insight into the challenges involved in managing an emergency.

Participants were encouraged to reflect on their own knowledge and experiences and to identify personal learning goals.

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