

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHARGES – SPECIAL SERVICES

1 Purpose of Report

To present proposed increases in charges made for special services.

2 Recommendation

That the proposed charges for special services be applied from 1 April 2006.

3 Background

Section 19 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 preserves a power to charge for responding to incidents other than fire calls. The Draft National Framework 2006-08 states that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) expects to issue guidance on the charging order of the 2004 Act, during this year.

Although the Fire Authority will be required to review its charging policy following this guidance from the ODPM, it is important that Fire Authority's current tariff of charges for special services is maintained in line with inflationary pressures. This report, therefore, requests the Fire Authority to consider the proposed increases to its current charges, rather than give consideration at this stage to reviewing its charging policy.

In compliance with Financial Regulations, the Authority has been asked to agree an increase in charges for Special Services each year. The increase has historically been linked to the pay award. Most costs are for attendance by operational personnel, for whom the pay award has been higher than inflation, and for appliances.



The levels of income generated from Special Services can be summarised as follows:

Year	£
2003/04	22,560
2004/05	17,366
April – December 2005	9,306

The issue of copy fire certificates has ceased in 2005/06, resulting in a drop in special services income overall.

4 Charges for 2006/07

The proposed charges for 2006/07 are attached as an appendix to this report. In line with the pay increase awarded in July 2005, proposed charges are increased by 3.4%.

5 Legal Comment

The Fire Authority has the power to impose special charges only in certain circumstances.

6 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report other than those discussed within the report.

7 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are not equality or diversity implications arising from this report.

8 Appendix

Revised Special Service Charges from 1 April 2006 (excluding VAT)

9 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

For further information about this report please contact Keith Dixon, Treasurer, on 01743 260202 or Joanne Coadey, Principal Accountant, on 01743 260215.



REVISED SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2006 (EXCLUDING VAT)

	Present Charges set 1 April 2005	Recommended Charges 1 April 2006
(i)	PERSONNEL	
	£40.00 per person (irrespective of rank) per hour	£41.00 per hour
(ii)	APPLIANCES AND VEHICLES	
	a) Normal Pumping Appliances £191.00 per hour	£197.00 per hour with crew
	b) Major Appliance, Aerial Ladder Platform, Heavy Pumping Unit £253.00 per hour	£262.00 per hour with crew
	c) Turntable Ladder £153.00 per hour	£158.00 per hour with crew
	d) Special Appliances, Light Pumping Unit, Pods, Boat and Utility Vehicles £63.50 per hour	£66.00 per hour with crew
(iii)	OTHER CHARGES	
	a) Copy of Official Document Fire Report (FDR1) £45.00	£47.00
	b) Copy of Fire Investigation Report £223.00 – charge based on one Officer for 10 hours	£231.00
	c) Copy of Means of Escape Certificate £45.00	Cost is based on time spent preparing the Certificate – minimum charge £47.00 as in (iii) a) above
	d) Search of Files* £26.50 per hour + cost of documents	£27.00 per hour + cost of documents
	e) Copy of Fire Regulations* £5.50	£6.00
	f) Interview (Fire Assessors) £50.00	£52.00

Explanatory Notes

Part of an hour to count as a complete hour

* Where a request falls under the Freedom of Information Act charges will be made in accordance with that Act.

