

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)		
DATE:	12 JUNE 2025	REPORT NO:	CFO/02/2526
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, NICK SEARLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER, PAUL MURPHY	REPORT AUTHOR:	IAN WARNE
OFFICERS CONSULTED	GROUP MANAGER CHRIS NOAKES (DIM CAPABILITY LEAD), AREA MANAGER DAN CARTWRIGHT, STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	CONTRACT FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ELECTRONIC PERSONAL DOSIMETERS (EPD)		

APPENDICES:	NONE
--------------------	-------------

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the requirement to procure Electronic Personal Dosimeters (EPDs) for the National Resilience (NR) Chemical Biological Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Capability and as the value exceeds the procurement threshold of £300,000 Members are being asked to approve the award of the contract.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members approve the award of the contract to Thermo Fisher for the procurement of EPDs from the West Midlands Ambulance Framework for £356,849.

Introduction and Background

3. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority are the lead authority for UK National Resilience and the replacement of EPDs forms part of the New Dimensions 2 (ND2) project and Home Office/MHCLG review of the Mass Decontamination capability.
4. EPDs are worn by individuals to monitor their exposure to ionizing radiation and provide real-time information on the potential radiation dose and dose rate.
5. The recent Detection Identification and Monitoring (DIM) Capability review modified various pieces of detection equipment, including the EPDs. Since the DIM and Mass Decontamination Capabilities operate together at a CBRN event, it is necessary to align certain pieces of equipment, including the EPD to ensure interoperability and consistency.

6. The West Midlands Ambulance Framework agreement operates with a sole supplier agreement exclusively for EPD's. The sole supplier is Thermo Fisher. All Fire and Rescue Authorities have been named on the framework allowing the Authority to access the goods directly from the supplier under the framework whilst remaining compliant with the legislative requirements for public procurement.

Equality and Diversity Implications

7. There are no identified equality or diversity implications related to the procurement of EPDs. EPDs are specialised equipment designed to ensure safe operation in CBRN environments, prioritising safety across all personnel roles regardless of background or identity.

Staff Implications

8. There are no staff implications as the proposed contract would provide service continuity.

Legal Implications

9. The purchase is from an established Framework and is the same framework that was used when the DIM Capability refreshed their EPDs in 2022. The route to market is compliant with the Authority's Contract Standing Orders and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

10. The funding for the EPDs is part of a grant provided from Home Office, Homeland Security Group, in January 2025. This grant is paid specifically for National Resilience equipment and does not come from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service ('the Service') funding.
11. Both Mass Decontamination and DIM Capabilities possess identical EPDs, which negates the necessity for each capability to supply equipment for reading and downloading data. DIM has procured the necessary equipment and will provide this service as part of the CBRN response.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

12. Delays in procurement could result in a gap in CBRN response capabilities.
13. To maintain consistency across the CBRN Capabilities, all activations of EPDs will be recorded using the same equipment, and the resulting data will be fed into scientific analysis using standardised equipment.

Environmental Implications

14. EPDs will be given to the Mass Decontamination Capabilities within their respective Fire and Rescue Services. The Fire and Rescue Services can then

use the older EPDs within their Service on front-line appliances or allocate them to Hazardous material trained Officers and National Intelligence Liaison Officers.

15. Should a Fire and Rescue Service not require the use of the old EPDs, National Resilience will provide instructions for their disposal.

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

16. The EPD Replacement Strategy supports the Service's vision and purpose of being the best in the UK by:
- Ensuring Readiness: Securing reliable, compliant radiation equipment enables swift, effective responses to CBRN incidents, directly enhancing public safety.
 - Prioritising Safety: Continuity with standardised radiation equipment minimises health and safety risks for both personnel and the public.
 - Fostering Collaboration: Maintaining interoperability with the NHS and Police supports a unified, large-scale emergency response, showcasing leadership in national resilience.
 - Demonstrating Accountability: Direct procurement minimises unnecessary costs, ensuring resource efficiency and reinforcing public trust in the Service's commitment to protection and fiscal responsibility.
17. This approach embodies the Service's commitment to serve, protect, and keep the community safe.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CBRN	C hemical B iological R adiological N uclear
FRS	F ire and R escue S ervice
MFRA	M erseyside F ire and R escue A uthority
MFRS	M erseyside F ire and R escue S ervice
SI	S ervice I nstruction