



Department for Communities and Local Government

All Chief Fire Officers
London Fire Commissioner

14 December 2012

Dear Colleague

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE EFFICIENCIES REVIEW

I am writing to let you know that the Fire Minister, Brandon Lewis, has commissioned me, in my capacity of the out-going Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, to undertake a review of efficiencies and operational improvements in the delivery of fire and rescue services in England.

I know there is good evidence of sensible efficiencies being driven by fire and rescue authorities and I am keen to explore these in detail with you, both to understand the thinking behind these efficiencies, and explore options to go further.

The aim of the review is to provide all fire and rescue authorities with sight of the range of opportunities being considered, with the aim of providing greater transparency. The report will be issued in Spring 2013.

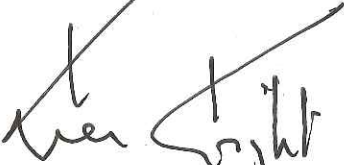
In considering the review, it is my intention to discuss the following with the sector, along with other matters you may wish to raise;

- Firefighter training
- Flexible staffing and crewing arrangements
- The use of Retained Firefighters
- Procurement
- Shared services
- Collaboration with emergency services and other organisations
- Sickness management
- Sharing of senior staff
- Locally led mergers and operational collaborations
- New fire-fighting technology
- Preventative approaches
- Working with local businesses

My intention is to undertake visits to a number of fire and rescue authorities, commencing in January. In addition I have established a dedicated email account 'firereview@communities.gsi.gov.uk' and would be pleased to receive your thoughts and ideas via that account.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important review

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Knight', written in a cursive style.

Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL

Enc