



Lord Greenhalgh
Minister of State for Building Safety, Fire
and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Minister,

August 20th, 2021

Fire and Rescue Services Spending Review Submission 2021

The Local Government Association and National Fire Chiefs Council have produced a joint submission on behalf of Fire and Rescue Authorities and Fire and Rescue Services to inform the 2021 Spending Review. The submission is enclosed for your information.

This has been a collaborative effort with colleagues from the Home Office and we are pleased to submit an informed, coherent and realistic proposal for sustainable funding of the fire and rescue sector over the spending review period.

The proposal covers four main areas:

- Maintaining firefighter numbers based on resourcing to risk;
- Committing to improved productivity and efficiency;
- Identification of the significant cost pressures facing the sector; and,
- Investment in sustainable improvement activity; focussing on Protection and professional expertise.

In presenting the submission we recognise and welcome the need for areas of fire service reform. This reform will require sustainable funding if we are to succeed in collectively and effectively leading the changes required.

We welcome the way we have been able to work with your officials on this submission. We will continue to do so to understand the emerging financial risks, particularly arising from Building Fire Safety legislation, pensions remedies, and the longer-term impact on Council Tax in the wake of the pandemic as well as to set up the proposed Efficiency in Fire Board.

Thank you for consideration of the issues affecting fire funding and for the opportunity to engage with your teams to develop this proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

Cllr Ian Stephens
Chair, LGA Fire Services Management Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Stephens', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mark Hardingham
Chair, National Fire Chiefs Council

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Hardingham', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Cc: Rachel Atkinson