



Guto Bebb AS/MP

Member of Parliament/Aelod Seneddol - Aberconwy
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Appendix 1

Mr. Simon Smith
Chief Fire Officer
Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters
Ffordd Salesbury
St. Asaph Business Park
St. Asaph
Denbighshire
LL17 0JJ

5 SEP 2012

4th September 2012

Dear Mr. Smith,

I have had a number of constituents and locally elected representatives express concern to me over the length of time that the Aerial Ladder Platform took to arrive in Llandudno from Rhyl over the weekend of 28/29th July.

I am led to understand that on a relatively quiet evening the appliance took twenty seven minutes to arrive in Llandudno and it is this length of time that has caused some disquiet.

I wonder if you are able to offer some assurance about your confidence in the ability of the Aerial Ladder Platform to be able to reach Llandudno in a timely manner when road conditions and traffic may be more congested.

I look forward to your early response.

Yours sincerely,

Guto Bebb
Member of Parliament - Aberconwy



CYNGOR • TREF
LLANDUDNO
TOWN • COUNCIL

Neuadd y Dref • Lloyd Street • Llandudno • Gogledd Cymru • LL30 2UP
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Mr Paul Claydon
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Ffordd Salesbury
St Asaph Business Park
St Asaph
Denbighshire
LL17 OJJ

CLAYDON - RECEIVED

4 OCT 2012

LLANDUDNO TOWN COUNCIL

4th October 2012

Dear Mr Claydon,

Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP)

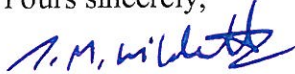
At a meeting of the Council held on the 28th September 2012, members discussed their grave concerns that on Sunday 29th August 2012, the aerial ladder and turntable took 26 minutes to reach the Tudno Castle Hotel fire travelling along a relatively empty road at 2am. This event highlighted to Council that the Fire Authority's previous reassurances about getting this equipment to Llandudno within 30 minutes could not be achieved as it suggested that at any other time of day, when roads were likely to be more congested, it would not be possible for the equipment to reach Llandudno in a timely manner. The appliance would also then take 30 minutes to assemble once on site.

Members also noted that there had been a recent incident in the Rhyl area which required an ALP. As the Rhyl one was not available, one was sent from Bangor; a considerable distance away. Members, therefore, further consider that it is not just Llandudno that is seriously affected, as the Fire Authority cannot guarantee that any one of the three ALP's would be available at any one time. Members also queried that if the Wrexham ALP were not available, where would the other come from?

Members expressed very strongly that it was the responsibility of the Town Council to look after the safety of residents and visitors and that they would like to see action before a disaster happens. They are concerned that the decision made by the Fire and Rescue Authority has been finance rather than needs led and is putting lives at risk. As Llandudno has a large number of high rise and heavily populated buildings this is of grave concern to the Council, residents, and visitors.

Llandudno Town Council, therefore, unanimously resolved to write to the Fire Authority urging for it to urgently review its decision to remove the appliance from Llandudno. Members have asked me to stress that Llandudno Town Council will continue to fight against the decision as it is in the interests of public safety and the safety of fire officers that immediate consideration be given to locating an appliance in a location where a realistic response time can be achieved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. M. Wildermoth', written in a cursive style.

Tessa Wildermoth, MSc
Town Clerk

BARMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL - CYNGOR TREF ABERMAW

c/o Clerk to the Council

Flat 2D Seaview Terrace,
Dinas Oleau Road,
BARMOUTH,
Gwynedd, LL42 1BA

12 OCT 2012

The Chief Fire Office
North Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Headquarters
Ffordd Salesbury
St Asaph Business Park
St Asaph
LL17 0JJ

Dear Sir,

The Barmouth Town Council is aware that on Monday the 6th of August, the Barmouth Station crew attended a house fire in Marine Gardens, Barmouth.

The fire was in a three story + attic terrace house opposite the Barmouth Primary School. On arrival at the scene the officer in charge requested the high level platform fire appliance to be dispatched from Bangor. We understand that this appliance was dispatched to Barmouth. However, we are also informed that it was recalled when it had reached the Waunfawr / Brinkir area south of Caernarfon and a request was then made for a similar machine to attend from Aberystwyth.

This appliance arrived at the incident in excess of 3 hours after the request was made.

The larger proportion of buildings in Barmouth are 3 & 4 story high or more and the Town Council are deeply concerned that this could have been a far more dangerous incident had it been mid-terrace and more adverse weather conditions and the primary school in session.

The Council would like the following questions answered:

At what level was the decision made to recall the Bangor appliance?

What was the justification to recall the appliance?

Was it required to attend another active incident?

If there was another incident, how do the decision makers decide which incident the appliance is sent to?

If there was no other incident at that time, what was the reason to recall the appliance?

Is it true that the appliance from Aberystwyth "got lost" and went several (or more) miles out of its way, so aggravating the late arrival in Barmouth?

How can the residents of Barmouth (and south Meirionnydd) have confidence that there is adequate fire & rescue cover being provided for this part of the North Wales area?

Can you refute the allegation that Llandudno takes priority over Barmouth in the provision of high reach cover?

My Council looks forward to your early response.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) Sue Phillips

Clerk to the Council

Copies to:

Rt. Hon Carwyn Jones, First Minister, Welsh Assembly Government

Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas AM

Elfed Llwyd MP

Gwynedd Council's representatives on the North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority.

Cllr. W Roy Owen

Cllr. John Brynmor Hughes

Cllr. W Tudor Owen

Cllr. Chris Hughes

Cllr. Linda Ann Jones

Mr Paul Claydon,
Asst. Chief Fire Officer,
North Wales Fire & Rescue Service,
Ffordd Salesbury,
St Asaph Business Park,
St Asaph, LL17 0JJ.

Gofynnwch am / Please ask for: **Iwan Davies**

 **01492 576300**

 **01492 576003**

 iwan.davies@conwy.gov.uk / jaci.doran@conwy.gov.uk

Ein Cyf / Our Ref:

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date:

Dear Mr Claydon, *Paul*,

15 OCT 2012

Aerial Ladder Platform – Llandudno

I have been contacted by Llandudno Town Council, who I understand have recently written to you expressing their concerns regarding the removal of the Aerial Ladder Platform from Llandudno and subsequent events relating to the fire at the Tudno Castle Hotel in the town.

Llandudno Town Council has asked Conwy County Borough Council to support their representation and I enclose a copy of a letter forwarded to you by the Chair of the Council in March 2012, in order to remind you of the Council's considered position in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Iwan Davies
Chief Executive

cc *Cllr Dilwyn Roberts, Leader*



Carl Sargeant AS/AM
Minister for Local Government & Communities
Welsh Government
Cheryl Gillan MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Chief Fire Officer – Simon Smith – NWFRA
Asst Chief Fire Officer - Paul Claydon - NWFRS
David Jones MP – Clwyd West
Guto Bebb MP – Aberconwy

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 cllr.brenda.taylor@conwy.gov.uk
delyth.spencer@conwy.gov.uk

Dyddiad / Date: 5th March, 2012

Dear All,

I write following a firm Resolution of Council on 23rd February 2012 to express the concerns of Conwy County Borough Council in relation to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's proposals to withdraw the Aerial Ladder Platform from Llandudno Fire Station.

We acknowledge that apparatus stationed in Rhyl, Bangor and Wrexham could be utilised to service the Conwy area however it is considered that this arrangement would not permit adequate coverage, leading to increased risks.

We consider that further serious deliberation on this matter is essential specifically given the nature of the Conwy area as a popular tourist destination with the inherent increase of seasonal populations. In addition, consideration should be given to the significant number of large, tall properties in the area, which includes hotels, houses in multiple occupation and the Assembly's Regional Offices in Llandudno Junction. The Aerial Ladder Platform is utilised to permit fire fighters to tackle blazes in tall / large buildings safely from above, rather than further risking lives by entering burning buildings; the ability to tackle blazes in this way would be severely curtailed.

Deploying an Aerial Ladder Platform from a different location will add vital time to dealing with fires in key locations and the risk and time delay of travelling along the A55, particularly during the busy summer months should be taken into account.

Given the nature of the Aerial Ladder Platform as a specialist piece of equipment and therefore prone to mechanical and electrical failure, as well as planned routine maintenance, we are concerned that there will be significant periods of time when one of the remaining three Aerial Ladder Platforms in North Wales will be unavailable, resulting in a large geographical area between Bangor and Wrexham being potentially covered by only two Platforms.

The Council is concerned that the recommendation made by the North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority has been motivated by purely financial considerations and therefore not necessarily determined by the best interests, health, and safety of the community.

We trust that the objections referred to above will be given great weight by the North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority in reaching their decision on the future of the Aerial Ladder Platform.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Mrs Brenda Taylor
Chairman



**Cymdeithas Cyngorau Trefi a Chymdeithasau Mwyaf
Gogledd Cymru**
**NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION OF TOWN AND LARGER
COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

Cllr Joan Butterfield Chair R A Robinson FRICS AILCM Secretary

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22nd October 2012

Paul Clayton
As Chief Fire Officer
Fire and Rescue Services
Ffordd Salesbury
St Asaph's Business Park
St Asaph's
LL17 0JJ



Dear Mr Clayton

Fire and Rescue Service North Wales

Good morning, I hope you are well.

The above Association represents 31 Town and Larger Community Councils mainly along the North Coast including Bangor, Abergele, Bay of Colwyn, Llandudno, Rhyl, Flint and others.

Concern was expressed at our last meeting (held on 19th October 2012) that the extendable ladder unit service has been depleted in that the one at Wrexham has gone out of service leaving only 3 for the north coast and Wrexham and not 4. The meeting felt that the current position was not acceptable nor sustainable in service terms.

I understand that the Fire and Rescue Extendable Ladder Units were posted at Bangor, Llandudno, Rhyl and Wrexham. I further understand that one of those units has been taken from Llandudno to Wrexham leaving a large gap between Rhyl and Bangor.

The Association wishes to suggest that to resolve this problem that one unit is placed at Bangor and one at Wrexham with the remaining unit located not at Rhyl but at Colwyn Bay.

The reason for this suggestion is that the time it takes for this unit to get to a fire in Llandudno (a large populated area with many high buildings) is in excess of 30 minutes on a good day. On an average day I would suggest it will take longer. By locating the unit at Colwyn Bay the unit could reach all the areas it serves well within 30 minutes.

Your observations on our suggestion would be gratefully received.

No Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely



Robert A Robinson FRICS AILCM
Secretary to the Association