



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Aled Morris Jones
Chair
North Wales Fire and Rescue
Authority

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4 June 2013

Dear Councillor Morris Jones

I am writing to inform you of the 'Fire and Rescue Services in Wales Project 2013' we are undertaking. Next year will mark ten years since responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Services was devolved to the Welsh Government (WG), and there have been many social and economic changes in that time.

The WG budget has already been reduced by over £1 billion since 2010-11 and the next UK Spending Review is certain to reduce funding even further. This will inevitably lead to increased financial pressures across the public sector.

Alongside the economic backdrop there have also been many changes to the work of the Fire and Rescue Services in Wales over the last decade, and it is therefore timely to consider the work of the service. The project will seek to pull together and analyse information on the work of the services, a list of the areas we would like to cover is attached at Annex A. We see this as a joint opportunity to work together and we would like to work with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service on the project. A working group will be established to take the project forward, and I would like to invite the Chief Fire Officer to identify a representative for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. I expect the working group to meet for the first time in June and for the project to proceed at pace, with a view to reporting in the autumn.

You will be aware that in April 2013, the First Minister established the Commission for Public Service Governance and Delivery, which will examine how public services are governed in the broader context. The Commission is still considering the full scope of their work. As appropriate Welsh Government officials will liaise with Commission officials.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Fire Officer of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Yours sincerely

Alyson Francis
Deputy Head of Community Safety
Community Safety Division
Welsh Government

ANNEX A

FRS' in Wales 2013 Project

Areas to be covered

Current FRS' activity:

- statutory and non statutory functions
- prevention, protection and rescue
- support functions

Funding sources

Workforce model

- headcount and specialisms
- structures
- operational delivery models and rationale

Governance

Estates

Statistics and performance management

Scrutiny and assurance

Collaboration and engagement

- NIC
- FRS' representation

Other activity and the impact

- UK
- Other emergency services
- Other
- Interoperability of systems