



**Department for
Communities and
Local Government**

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Dear Jason,

Thank you for your letter of 18 November regarding injury payments that Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service has incorrectly claimed through the firefighters' pension top-up grant. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Since the Department first became aware that some fire and rescue authorities had made unauthorised grant claims, further authorities have subsequently declared that they have similar outstanding liabilities to the Department. I have therefore wanted to be satisfied that we understand the full extent of the unauthorised grant claims before final decisions are taken.

We have now received final notifications from affected fire and rescue authorities about their total liabilities. I will now consider the implications for the Department and for fire and rescue authorities of options for resolving this situation and will notify authorities of my decision in due course.

You also ask for the legal basis for the recovery of payments. The fire and rescue authorities concerned made claims for and received money to which they were not entitled. It is reasonable to recover public funds that were not used for the purpose that Parliament had intended.

*Yours,
Penny*

PENNY MORDAUNT MP