

Appendix E

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Our ref: JTAM 0138.17
Enquiries to: Anneli McCallum
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Date: 28 July 2017

Dear Chloe

Representation Model: PCCs with voting rights on combined FRAs

I hope that you are well, and I look forward to catching up with you very soon.

I write with reference to your recent communication that was circulated to all chief fire officers via Steven Adams from the NFCC on 25 July 2017.

I note that progress is being made by the Home Office in drafting the secondary legislation required in order to give effect to the intentions in the Policing and Crime Act 2017 to enable a PCC to participate as a voting member on a combined FRA (subject to the combined FRA agreeing to a request to do so from the relevant PCC).

Incidentally, my Authority amended its constitution in February 2015 to enable it to co-opt the Thames Valley PCC onto its committees as a non-voting member, and there has been a standing invitation for him to attend its full Authority meetings in place before then.

You indicate that there will be a period of consultation prior to the necessary amendments to combination schemes being made; and that the Home Office's intention is for the new amended combination schemes to be laid before parliament in Autumn.

I accept that the changes will be technical and procedural in nature and are likely to be 'enabling' rather than 'mandatory'. However the proposals in the consultation will be essentially on matters about which the respective FRA themselves, considering the matters as a full Authority, must be the respondents rather than officers.

I therefore wish to flag with you that many combined FRAs only convene meetings quarterly. The next meeting of my full Authority, for example, is not until 18 October.

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I felt that I should bring this to your attention so that the Home Office can take it into account when it sets the consultation period.

If I can assist further do let me know. Alternatively my Director of Legal and Governance, Graham Britten gbritten@bucksfire.gov.uk would be happy to liaise directly with Steven Polly in your team on such matters.

Kindest Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Thelwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jason Thelwell QFSM
Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service