



**Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government**

Councillor Kay Hammond  
Chairman  
Fire Services Management Committee  
Local Government Association  
Local Government House  
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**Brandon Lewis MP**  
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Dear Kay,

You will have seen my recent exchanges with Matt Wrack, the General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union. In those letters I expressed my commitment to maintaining dialogue with the Union to resolve the current dispute. Meetings with the Fire Brigades Union have continued this week.

Central to the concerns expressed by the Union are the processes underpinning the assessment of fitness and capability by individual fire and rescue authorities. There clearly needs to be reassurances that there are appropriate mechanisms in place to support firefighters who fall below minimum standards, and nationally agreed principles to ensure that no one over the age of 55 is left without access to a job or pension. These are not Government issues, they are employer led issues and require an employer led solution.

There is a clear way to address the concerns of the FBU and I consider that a public commitment by you as the employers, to support such a set of principles, is important and would go a long way to resolving this dispute. I would be grateful for your urgent and positive response to this issue.

I am copying this letter to Councillor Maurice Heaster and Matt Wrack.

**BRANDON LEWIS MP**