



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

All Firefighters in England

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Dear Firefighter

As many of you will be aware, I met with the Fire Brigades Union last Thursday. This meeting was both useful and constructive. I remain committed to resolving the dispute, and very much hope that you and your work are not disrupted by further strike action.

Last week I had the opportunity to visit Lambeth Fire Station, and even ride on the Fire Boat they house. It provided an opportunity to see the station's important work at first hand. I also had the opportunity to have a lengthy and in-depth discussion with the watch at the station. I was grateful that they felt able to speak openly about their views on many fire and rescue service matters – a number of which are clearly strongly felt.

On Saturday, I was kindly invited to the opening of Haden Cross Community Fire Station in the West Midlands . I was particularly impressed that the new station will serve as a community base for West Midlands Ambulance Service paramedics. I was delighted to see this closer cooperation between the emergency services in action - something of which there are good examples elsewhere, and I would like to encourage.

On Sunday, I attended the Firefighters Memorial Trust Annual Service of Remembrance in London. For the first time, I had the privilege of laying a wreath on behalf of the Government, recognising those firefighters who have fallen while on duty.

Lastly, I am grateful to all of you who have taken the trouble to write to me to express your views. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me direct with any particular concerns or observations you have.

**PENNY MORDAUNT MP**

