



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

**Penny Mordaunt MP**

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03/10/2014

Dear Firefighter,

I am writing to update you following my letter of 19 September 2014.

You may have heard today's announcement by the Chancellor that The Firefighters Charity will be receiving up to £1 million of funding to enhance their existing services to Firefighters and fire service personnel. The charity will also be endowed with a further £1 million so that they are able to offer their services to both ambulance and search and rescue personnel as needed.

This funding is part of a £10 million pot from fines levied against the banks for illegal practices in relation to LIBOR (the interest rate at which banks lend to one another), initially announced as part of the December 2013 Autumn Statement. The allocation of this funding seeks to recognise the great work that our emergency services personnel undertake and the positive work being delivered by organisations such as The Firefighters Charity to support our emergency services personnel.

I am aware that many of you fundraise for and may even have used the services provided by this important charity so I hope that you will be pleased with this announcement. I certainly am.

The Chancellor also announced that MIND, the national mental health charity, will be receiving up to £4 million to provide focused support and information services to all emergency services personnel, building on their Time to Change campaign to tackle stigma and discrimination in relation to mental health. I am very pleased that firefighters will benefit from this investment.

Finally, he announced that £1 million has been set aside to establish an endowment for the emergency services sector, to support bereaved families of active service personnel. An open call for a partner to manage this endowment and the support to families has been issued.

I have been considering the bids submitted under the Transformation Fund. I am really excited about the ideas we have received for reform and improving services to the public, across the themes of blue lights collaboration, local accountability, prevention and protection, asset transformation, and on-call firefighters. I expect to make an announcement on the awards soon and to distribute £75million to enable these new initiatives to be set up.

You may be aware that I had a further meeting with the FBU this week on the pension dispute. The meeting was constructive and we continue to work through the issues. We are nearing the end of this process, but some technical matters remain. Further meetings between us and our legal teams are scheduled and I hope to be in a position to announce a final scheme in a few weeks. I hope you will continue to bear with me as I work through the issues, and would like to reassure you that I remain keen to resolve this dispute as soon as is possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Penny Mordaunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**PENNY MORDAUNT MP**