



**Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government**

Matt Wrack  
The Fire Brigades Union  
Bradley House  
68 Coombe Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey  
KT2 7AE

**Brandon Lewis MP**  
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State*

***Department for Communities and Local  
Government***

Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: 0303 444 3430  
Fax: 0303 444 3986  
E-Mail: [brandon.lewis@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:brandon.lewis@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/dclg](http://www.gov.uk/dclg)

Our Ref: BL/BL/36074/13

Your Ref: MW/sll

18/12/2013

Dear Matt,

I note that the Fire Brigades Union continues to claim that I am not prepared to meet to bring this ill-conceived dispute to an end. To set the record straight, I wrote to you on 12 November stating that I am available to meet. Sadly, given that this is your dispute, you did not take me up on that offer and have not requested a meeting with me since. I am sure that your members will be disappointed to hear this as you prepare to take them out for another three periods of unnecessary strike action.

Nevertheless, at my instigation, I met with you and Sean Starbuck on 4 December at the round table on fitness and capability that I hosted and chaired. I find it very odd that you say that these issues form part of your dispute, yet claim that this productive event was not a 'meeting' which could lead to a resolution of your dispute, in the same way that you allowed your strike mandate to fall in Scotland on this specific issue.

In the interests of clarity and transparency I have arranged to put the draft minutes of the round table on the Department's website. They indicate the wide ranging nature of the debate, and can be found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/267457/131204-M-Roundtable\\_on\\_fitness\\_and\\_capability\\_issues\\_in\\_the\\_fire\\_service\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/267457/131204-M-Roundtable_on_fitness_and_capability_issues_in_the_fire_service_2_.pdf)

If you have changed your mind, and now wish to meet with me, then please contact my office here to arrange a suitable time and date for such a meeting to take place.

**BRANDON LEWIS MP**