

Penny Mordaunt MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Department for Communities and Local Government

4th Floor, Fry Building 2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3459 Fax: 0303 444 3310

E-Mail: penny.mordaunt@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

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Dear Firefighters,

A brief note to update you on progress:

Last week I had another productive meeting with the FBU, further meetings are planned over the next couple of weeks. I have also continued to meet firefighters directly to hear their views. Further meetings are planned with the other unions and groups representing women in the Fire Service. I realise that it must be frustrating for you while this work continues, but I can assure you these meetings are very worthwhile, and would ask you to continue to bear with me as we make progress.

I am very grateful to everyone who has taken the time to write into me, and those who have met me at fire stations. It is much appreciated.

In the course of my duties I attended the firefighter memorial service last weekend and felt very privileged to have been there. I was reminded at that event that the Fire Service is much more than the sum of its parts. That occasion and the Chief Fire Officers AGM have afforded me further opportunities to meet with key personnel from the service.

I hope to be able to give you a further update shortly.

PENNY MORDAUNT MP