

**EFFICIENCIES WORKING PARTY  
OPERATIONAL RESPOSE SUB GROUP  
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Government is currently conducting a Spending Review (the outcome of which will be published in late 2015) with the objective of eliminating the deficit by 2019/20. Unprotected Government departments have been instructed to provide models that provide for reductions of 25% and 40% in spending in real terms by 2019/20.

The Authority is now planning how best to deal the range of likely Government grant cuts it faces moving forward from 2016/17 and as part of this response has agreed to the establishment of a working group involving all Representative Bodies to identify efficiencies that will allow the Authority to provide the most effective, efficient and proficient service possible within the likely level of available resources.

A substantial part of the focus of the working group will be directed at the efficiencies that can be made in relation to operational response arrangements. The Authority will work with a group consisting of representatives from the Fire Brigades Union and the Fire Officers Association to seek to identify potential efficiencies that will ensure that the Authority provides the most effective, efficient and proficient operational response provision possible. The scope of this work will include (although not exclusively) duty systems, station mergers, work routines and anything else that any constituent parties of the working group reasonably wishes to propose or discuss.

All documentation, data and evidence requested by any of the constituent parties will be provided in accordance with the Joint Protocol for Good Industrial Relations in the Fire and Rescue Service.

The group will provide a provisional report by a date agreed by both sides detailing:

1. Areas of agreement
2. Areas where the parties remain divided

3. Recommendations to assist on narrowing or eliminating areas of disagreement.