



# MERSEYSIDE FIRE BRIGADES UNION

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Date: Wednesday, 15 June 2011

Ref: MRT Duty System.

Dear Mr Cummins,

Thank you for your letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 regarding the above matter of negotiations.

I can confirm I will consult with the FBU Health and Safety Representative, Mr Gary Bennett, to ensure that the risk assessment you have now provided is suitable and sufficient.

in relation to our meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011 you attempt to provide a response to issues we raised at the meeting. For ease I have responded as you have numbered them.

- 1 I have yet to receive the MRT SOP's but note that Mr Searle has provided electronic copies to Mr Bennett.
- 2 Sleep in Duties: you have attempted to reassure us that crews will only be required to respond to mobilisation requests from MACC and attend to other risk critical tasks which is not the information we requested. The specific request we made was for a definition of 'sleeping in' as contained within the Green Book as the circular you have previously provided contains no relevant information whatsoever. I would be grateful for such a definition as a matter of some urgency.

However you have now provided the Fire Brigades Union an area of tension in that you say that the crews, as well as mobilising to calls, would also be expected to attend to other risk critical tasks, could you also detail what those risk critical tasks would be.

- 3 I note your comments in relation to data.



I thank you for the confirmation that you are to arrange a further meeting with Mr Mernock and I apologise for the confusion in relation to the last meeting date which unfortunately led to the FBU responding in good faith but after the meeting date as offered. I look forward to moving key issues forward at our meeting.

I can confirm that your assumption that the service has dealt with all the issues raised by the FBU is incorrect as there are significant areas we still require resolution on. I will ensure those areas will be covered at our meeting.

To assist dialogue I would be grateful if you could provide me with a plan of the new working arrangements to be located at the Terminal you informed us would be ready and available for the crews to relocate to on or around September 2011.

Further I would be grateful if you could provide me with a copy of the contract of employment proposed to be adopted by employees you expect to work under the proposed arrangements.

You are aware one area of significant concern is the staffing model and I think it is fair to say the Fire Brigades Union do not agree with the Services explanation of the proposed model and view it as unworkable at present. To assist those discussions I would be grateful if you could provide me with a year planner for say 2012, under the proposed structure so we can jointly run a table top exercise to test the robustness of the proposal.

Finally I note you say that the consultation period is drawing to a close, you are aware that this is an issue including hours and pay and as such I require your agreement that this is one of negotiation. You are also aware that the Fire Brigades Union view this as a fundamentally important issue and not of semantics or pedantry.

I look forward to that assurance and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



L Skarratts  
Brigade Secretary