

Councillor Tony Newman
Chair to the Authority
Merseyside Fire Service
Service Head quarters
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4YD

Date: 4th February 2008

Reference: Downgrading of Allerton Fire Cover

Dear Councillor Newman,

I am writing to you in your capacity of Chair of Merseyside Fire Authority for a reasonable explanation as to why you, your Labour Group and the Conservative Group on Merseyside Fire Authority have denied my family the fire cover that hundreds of thousands of other Merseyside voters and council tax payers receive.

I live in the S1 Allerton station area, as do most of my family and friends, and your decision to prolong the emergency fire response between 10pm and 10am to my home leaves my family and thousands of others, without the safeguard of immediate emergency fire response.

Why have those elected members under the professional guidance of CFO McGuirk decided that my family can wait longer for emergency fire cover of a night time than other families in Merseyside? Are we deemed as some sort of "collateral" with financial savings being more important than immediate emergency fire response?

Will you be refunding the tens of thousands of council tax payers who live in the S1 Allerton station area part of their council tax for receiving a longer (2 minutes) response time for emergency fire cover every night of the year? It is obvious to me, as a firefighter of over fifteen years, that half of their council tax bill for fire cover should be refunded as most fire deaths do occur at night time and in our job seconds really do cost lives.

Could you also provide me with the detailed consultation that MF&RS provided to the council tax payers within the S1 Allerton area, for example letters to their home addresses informing them of longer emergency fire response time for twelve hours every night or the local press and media campaign? Did you use any friends of the fire service

or advocates to get the message of downgrading of fire cover out to the local residents before you made this dangerous decision?

I look forward to your earliest possible response, a response I will pass on to a number of interested parties and organisations within the Allerton area, but please remember that as a resident, voter and council tax payer and furthermore as a Merseyside firefighter I do know exactly how long other emergency fire appliances will take to respond from surrounding areas and also that the SFU, which is now suddenly appearing in the Allerton area, is not and cannot be classed emergency response vehicle.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Dunne,
Brigade Chair

Cc Louise Ellman
Elected Members