

CFO McGuirk  
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service  
Bridle Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L40 3YD

Date: Thursday, 21 September 2006

Ref: Merseyside Dispute - NJC Talks.

Dear Mr McGuirk,

I write with regard to the ongoing strike action brought about by the current trade dispute.

It is my understanding that despite the clearest decision from the elected members of the MF&CDA at the authority meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2006, that the Merseyside employers side wish to resume talks, with NJC assistance with immediate effect, yet to date I have received no contact from either yourself or Mr Evans on behalf of the authority requesting such talks.

I have, however, noticed from the MRFS website that you have now made contact with the employers' side of the NJC for those talks to commence as a matter of urgency, I make the presumption that the report is founded and will act accordingly.

You may recall that MF&CDA have on several occasions, resolved to adhere to all local and national agreements yet I believe that you may have made contact with the employers side of the NJC without even seeking the mutual agreement of myself as the employees' local joint secretary for agreement to those talks, or even the courtesy of informing me. I can confirm that I do agree to the resumption of those talks as a matter of urgency in advance of Saturday and can also confirm the availability and readiness of the employees' NJC joint secretary, Andy Dark to attend. However, such a variance to the notification procedures between local joint secretaries may have resulted in further delay.

I would also wish to reiterate that the NJC Joint Secretaries involvement though both welcome and helpful, is to assist talks rather than conduct them.

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

Yours sincerely

L Skarratts  
Brigade Secretary

Cc A Dark - Employees Joint Secretary  
S Messenger - Employers Joint Secretary