

Cllr T Newman
Chair - MF&CDA
20 Martock,
Whiston.
Prescot.
L35 3JZ

Date: Tuesday, 28 September 2010

Ref: Press Comments - MF&RS Chief Fire Officer.

Dear Cllr Newman,

You will recall that I wrote to you on the 17th September 2010 regarding recent comments attributed to the Chief Fire Officer in the local and national media.

I have yet to receive a response to that letter and I would be grateful if you could give this matter your urgent attention.

I apologise if correspondence has crossed in the post.

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

Yours sincerely

L Skarratts
Brigade Secretary

Cllr T Newman
Chair - MF&CDA
20 Martock,
Whiston.
Prescot.
L35 3JZ

Date: Friday, 17 September 2010

Ref: Press Comments - MFRS Chief Fire Officer.

Dear Cllr Newman,

I am sure you would have read with interest, as I did, the remarks made by your Chief Fire Officer, Mr McGuirk, quoted in the Daily Mail and in which he is quoted as stating that *'we've got some bone idle people in the public sector. There I have said it - bone idle people'* and that other public sector bosses should *'show muscle and sack people'*. I note the use of the term *'there I have said it....'* which appears to demonstrate an acknowledgment of both the intent and of the severity of those comments.

It seems apparent that Mr McGuirk does not question the validity of those statements and indeed it seems that through his email to all MFRS employees apologising for those comments confirms the use of that language. Mr McGuirk goes on to state that he apologises if any employee is upset by his comments. I note that Mr McGuirk regrettably does not retract that comment.

I can confirm that the vast majority of my members are upset by these comments as are many, many colleagues in other public services who have contacted the FBU office to lay out those concerns.

I further note that Mr McGuirk defines a frontline service as fire engines and fire stations, consequently I would respectfully request off you, information on how many shifts in this calendar year that two pump stations have been reduced to being a one pump station, the second pump standing idle through a lack of staff, this being prior to the imminent October Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

Given the offence and hurt the comments the Chief fire Officer has caused, the potential disrepute brought upon the Service and the apparent intent to demean those workers within areas of the public service I would respectfully enquire off you your intentions in this regard.

Finally and importantly I would ask that you as a matter of urgency condemn those comments made by Chief Fire Officer McGuirk and as a consequence confirm repudiation of those comments. Clearly not to do so would infer that you and your

colleagues stand by those comments, a position the FBU does not believe to be the case.

I look forward to your most urgent response and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

L Skarratts
Brigade Secretary

cc Elected Members
Branch Secretaries