



Fire Brigades Union

Southern Region

Buckinghamshire - Berkshire - Oxfordshire
Hampshire - Isle of Wight - Dorset



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Regional Fire Service Management Board Fail to agree Government proposals on Fire Controls

Yesterday the regional Management Board for the Fire Service again failed to endorse the Governments plan for a super-control for the whole of Southern England.

The board, lobbied by Control Staff and Firefighters from across the South and South East, have agreed to write to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister expressing their growing concerns.

Dean Mills, FBU executive council member said "The board charged with implementing this dangerous, uncosted plan expressed yet again their concerns with many wanting it scrapped altogether"

The Scheme will cost a minimum of £754,500,000 to set up and 12% more per year to run than the present system despite proposals to axe jobs of skilled control staff. The 110 page Government report fails to list how a single additional life could be saved.

Sharon Eames the Regional Control representative said "We welcome the position taken by all nine brigades in refusing to endorse the current proposals. Brigades are finally realising that the Fire Brigades Union position is the correct one and these dangerous proposals must be stopped"

The board instructed the new clerk Des Pritchard, to write on their behalf to the ODPM. Many present, representing over 9 million people across the south and south east, expressed their rapidly growing concerns and fears that the scheme was ill thought out and that there would be increased costs. Mr Mills stated that at a time when fire service budgets were strained it was foolish to continue with the proposals.

Danny Whitelock the regional Chair said "Even the cost of setting up these type of meetings has an impact on our budgets. This year and for the next two they will have to spend £580,000 of local taxpayers money each year just running the board. It's not only a waste of time and resources it's a complete waste of our finances"

Mr Mills praised his members and said they had once again shown their determination to protect the public and were determined to improve the fire service and not pander to government policies which would erode it.

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