

REPORT TO FIRE AUTHORITY

DATE: 4 December 2006

SUBJECT:

**Risk Reduction Plan 2007/10
Letter from the Minister dated 16 November 2006**

SUMMARY:

The Chair of the Authority has received the attached letter from the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration dated 16 November 2006. The letter raises a number of issues relative to the Authority's Risk Reduction Plan.

Members are asked to consider how the Authority would wish to respond to the Minister's letter. The attached brief report sets out some background information to assist in Member's deliberation.

IMPLICATIONS:

OPERATIONAL RISK - For information only
COMMUNITY RISK - For information only
TRAINING – For information only
H.R – For information only
FINANCE - For information only
I.T/COMMS – For information Only
EQUALITY & DIVERSITY – For information only
HEALTH & SAFETY – For information only
LEGAL – For information only

RECOMMENDATION:

Members consider how they wish to respond to the Minister

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Letter from Minister dated 16 November 2006

Report Author and Designation

P Bates Head of Operational Risk
Management

Telephone number/Extension

4406

RISK REDUCTION PLAN 2007/10
LETTER FROM MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND REGENERATION

The Chair has received the attached letter from the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration dated 16 November 2006.

In this letter the Minister raises a number of concerns which relate to the Authority's Risk Reduction Plan.

Members will recall that the Chair, the Member Working Group, the Chief Fire Officer and others met with the Minister on 15 June 2006 to informally discuss the Risk Reduction Plan.

The principal issues that the Minister raises relate to the LNG developments in Pembrokeshire and the consideration of public comments received during the consultation period.

Members are asked to consider how they would wish to respond to the letter.

In considering any response to the Minister, Members may wish to:

1. Take the Minister's views into account.
2. Review its decision on "some of the proposals" which unfortunately are not clearly identified in the Minister's letter.
3. Write back to the Minister, confirming the Authority's decision in relation to the industrial developments in West Wales and address her questions about whether Members have taken full account of public concern whilst finalising their RRP.

A "holding" letter has already been sent to the Minister advising her that the Authority is considering this matter at its meeting today.

Edwina Hart AM MBE
Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Our ref: MB/EH/897/06
Your ref: DR/he

Brian Hall
Chair
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
Headquarters
Lime Grove Avenue
Carmarthen
Carmarthenshire. SA31 1SP.

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA
Switchboard: 029 2082 5111
Fax: 029 2089 8131
Email: ps.edwina.hart@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd CF99 1NA
Switsfwrdd: 029 2082 5111
Ffacs: 029 2089 8131
Eboost: ps.edwina.hart@wales.gsi.gov.uk

16 November 2006

CFO Doug Mackay wrote to me on 6 November regarding finalising your Risk Reduction Plan (RRP).

As you are aware from your own experiences, changes to current public services are sometimes construed negatively by local communities, as they could perceive those changes as a diminution of those services. Indeed, I myself have received many representations over recent months in relation to the proposals contained in your draft RRP.

I am very concerned over the long-term implications of some of your proposals given the industrial development taking place in West Wales and in particular the development of LNG. This is also an issue that has been raised by members of the public as a very real concern to the communities of Mid and West Wales. I would therefore like to seek your assurance that the Authority, in considering the consultation responses, has taken full account of these concerns in finalising the plan and has in place the necessary infrastructure to deal with any incidents that may occur in the future (or during the period of the Plan).

You will also need to give careful consideration to the implementation and media strategies you intend adopting in relation to the Plan to ensure that the Authority can demonstrate that public concerns in the communities affected have been fully addressed.



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE