

Ian Stephens – Chair of FSMC
Mark Hardingham – Chair of NFCC

Cc Chief Fire Officers

Dear Ian and Mark

**FIRE AND RESCUE FUNDING 2021-22 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2022-23**

I thought it would be helpful to set out some recent decisions on funding for Fire and Rescue Authorities in 2021-22 as well as setting out the outcome of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022-23.

2021-22 Grant Funding

As you are aware, the Government asked all public bodies to assist with the vaccine booster programme in the Autumn and Winter of last year, with the commitment that all additional costs would be reimbursed. I am grateful to the authorities that stepped up to support this national effort. We have received total claims of over £200k from several FRAs and these will be paid in May. Additionally, as our Department secured £5m from HMT for the purpose of supporting the vaccine roll-out, the Minister has agreed that the remaining £4.7m can be distributed to all 44 FRAs in formula shares. These allocations are set out in Annex A. This funding can be used to cover any outstanding covid costs and then any remaining funding should be put towards improving FRA efficiency and productivity.

We have also managed to secure £3m to cover the additional costs of pension administration that have been incurred in 2021-22. This funding should go towards the additional costs that FRAs have incurred as a result of administering the pension remedy.

Hopefully this additional funding is welcome and will enable FRAs to continue to invest in improving their efficiency and productivity over the course of this Spending Review period.

2022-23 Local Government Settlement

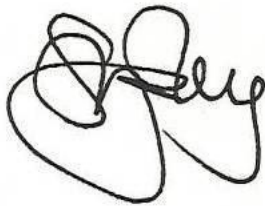
In relation to the Final Local Government Settlement for 2022-23, the package outlined by DLUHC will provide a firm foundation for funding throughout 2022/23. The Government is providing a new one-off Services Grant to all Local Authorities (including FRAs) of £822m that will be distributed through Settlement Funding Assessment shares. The Government is also increasing the Revenue Support Grant in line with inflation and maintaining the Rural Services Delivery Grant.

The Settlement also included the council tax referendum principles for 2022/23. As you will be aware, we managed to secure flexibility so that the 8 FRAs with the lowest precept levels could increase council tax by £5 for one year only in 2022/3. This is to assist those FRAs in addressing immediate pressures and to maintain a sustainable income baseline for future years.

These proposals will mean an overall increase in Core Spending Power of 6.2% for standalone FRAs in 2022-23 compared with 2021-22.

The Department expects to be able to confirm Home Office grants to FRAs very shortly, but I am able to confirm that the £115m pensions grant will continue in 2022-23 at the current allocations and that we will provide a total of £12m in protection grant in order to continue to support the increases in capacity and capability of your protection teams.

I hope that this letter is helpful in setting out the details of grant funding and financial support that is available to Fire and Rescue Authorities. I look forward to working with you to deliver against our key priorities for the sector.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Gawley', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

SARAH GAWLEY

Annex A – additional grants for FRAs in 2021-22

NHS Covid costs

<i>FRA</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Avon Fire	86,774.99
Bedfordshire Fire	44,735.29
Berkshire Fire	56,315.41
Buckinghamshire Fire	40,446.73
Cambridgeshire Fire	48,255.12
Cheshire Fire	72,886.53
Cleveland Fire	79,569.36
Cornwall	62,195.12
Cumbria	45,366.87
Derbyshire Fire	71,608.34
Devon and Somerset Fire	120,846.83
Dorset and Wiltshire Fire	77,481.33
Durham Fire	57,422.82
East Sussex Fire	59,408.37
Essex Fire	135,361.08
Gloucestershire	31,343.19
Greater London Authority	1,142,114.38
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	274,036.91
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue	133,485.77
Hereford and Worcester Fire	41,993.86
Hertfordshire	67,107.92
Humberside Fire	108,994.57
Kent Fire	

	115,475.51
Lancashire Fire	131,103.15
Leicestershire Fire	72,169.51
Lincolnshire	52,894.12
Merseyside Fire	169,624.06
Norfolk	64,826.27
North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner	47,078.04
Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner	41,511.70
Northumberland	29,586.17
Nottinghamshire Fire	88,110.61
Oxfordshire	28,120.94
Shropshire Fire	28,346.35
South Yorkshire Fire	130,458.66
Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner	77,823.50
Suffolk	43,906.00
Surrey	63,100.45
Tyne and Wear Fire	132,632.25
Warwickshire	22,884.62
West Midlands Fire	286,529.31
West Sussex	29,941.77
West Yorkshire Fire	207,413.39
Isles of Scilly	1725.00
TOTAL	4,723,012.39

Pension admin grant allocations

FRA	Grant allocation
Avon	£56,674.95
Bedfordshire	£34,917.39
Bucks and Milton Keynes	£30,092.12
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	£43,602.87
Cheshire	£62,377.54
Cleveland	£34,303.26
Cornwall	£52,463.81
Cumbria	£45,796.17
Derbyshire	£54,306.19
Devon & Somerset	£138,090.36
Dorset & Wiltshire	£87,907.59
Durham and Darlington	£44,216.99
East Sussex	£43,515.13
Essex	£102,207.93
Gloucestershire	£34,478.72
Greater Manchester	£119,403.42
Hampshire & IOW	£129,931.28
Hereford & Worcester	£51,849.69
Hertfordshire	£53,253.40
Humberside	£61,412.49
Isles of Scilly (with Cornwall)	£3,860.21
Kent	£93,610.18
Leicestershire	£45,796.17
Lincolnshire	£59,306.92
Lancashire	£93,522.44
London	£420,236.88
Merseyside	£55,709.90
Norfolk	£65,097.24
North Yorkshire	£56,324.02
Northamptonshire	£33,601.40
Northumberland	£32,022.23
Nottinghamshire	£62,026.61
Oxfordshire	£51,849.69
Royal Berkshire	£37,461.62
Shropshire & Wrekin	£44,743.38
South Yorkshire	£50,621.44
Suffolk	£53,604.33
Surrey	£49,831.85
Staffordshire	£55,885.36
Tyne & Wear	£49,919.58
Warwickshire	£32,109.96

West Midlands	£122,737.24
West Sussex	£55,709.90
West Yorkshire	£93,610.18
Total	3,000,000.00