



This matter is being dealt with by: John Shuttleworth  
 Ext: 5555  
 Date: 27 October 2022  
 Our Ref:  
 Your Ref:

Clerk,  
 County Durham and Darlington  
 Fire and Rescue Authority  
 County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
 Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities  
 House of Commons  
 London  
 SW1A 0AA

Dear Secretary of State,

### **Fire Funding for 2023/24**

We are writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to highlight the current concerns we have regarding the funding of County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.

Last week we wrote to your predecessor, Simon Clarke MP, and we attach a copy of this letter which sets out our full case for a fair funding settlement.

You will see from this letter that our Service has absorbed significant cuts to our budget over the last 12 years and rising costs now mean that frontline services are at risk.

We would therefore welcome any opportunity to discuss this with you and extend an invitation for you to visit us at our Headquarters in County Durham.

We look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr John Shuttleworth

**Chair of County Durham and  
 Darlington Fire and Rescue  
 Authority**

Stuart Errington QFSM

**Chief Fire Officer  
 County Durham and Darlington  
 Fire and Rescue Service**

Cc John Glen MP – Chief Secretary to the Treasury