



**Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities**

Lee Rowley MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local
Government and Building Safety

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**

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Our Ref:22267160

Councillor John Shuttleworth
Chair of County Durham and Darlington Fire
and Rescue Authority

Mr Stuart Errington QFSM
Chief Fire Officer

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

January 2023

Dear Mr Errington and Mr Shuttleworth

Thank you for your letter of 20 October to the Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP and Paul Scully MP, about funding for fire and rescue services. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I am grateful for you getting in touch and for highlighting your views and concerns. The Government understands that the fire and rescue authorities, like all parts of local government, are being impacted by inflationary pressures and I appreciate the points you have raised.

As you may be aware, the Government recently announced the detail of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24. For fire and rescue authorities, this means an average Core Spending Power increase of 5.6% in cash terms compared to 2022/23. We are also consulting on a £5 referendum principle on Band D bills for fire and rescue authorities.

We will of course take on board your views and those of the wider fire and rescue sector.

I hope this is helpful. Thank you again for taking the time to write in on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP