

Oliver Colvile MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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25<sup>th</sup> March 2014

You will remember that you wrote to me last month regarding a statutory duty for fire and rescue services to combat flooding, and I wrote in turn to the Department for Communities and Local Government, raising your concerns. I have now received a response from Brandon Lewis MP, the minister responsible for the fire and rescue services.

The minister provides a convincing clarification that flooding is sufficiently covered in the legislation surrounding fire and rescue services, and as such there is a statutory duty for fire and rescue services to attend flooding. I am pleased that he also acknowledges the excellent work that fire and rescue services have done during the recent flooding.

I hope the enclosed letter helps to address your concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'OC' with a flourish.

Oliver Colvile

Member of Parliament for Plymouth Sutton & Devonport



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

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*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State*

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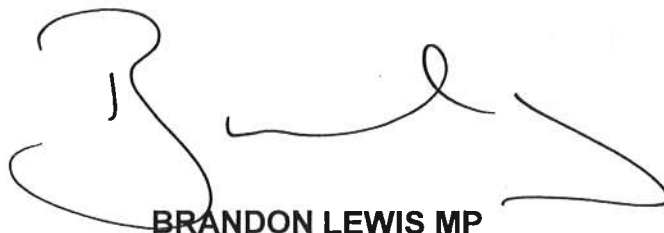
21 MAR 2014

Dear Oliver

Thank you for your letter of 21 February regarding your constituent's concern on the issue of introducing a statutory duty for fire and rescue services to attend flooding events.

Both the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 detail the roles and powers of fire and rescue authorities in respect of both emergency response and rescue in a wide range of situations, including from flooding. Fire and rescue authorities are required to identify and assess the full range of risks that an authority's service is expected to face, including flooding where appropriate. The analysis informs each authority's decision on the appropriate allocation of resources to deliver its prevention, protection and emergency response activities, which is taken after effective consultation with the local community. These expectations are clearly set out in the statutory National Fire Framework published in July 2012.

Over the past few months the fire and rescue services have provided an excellent response to flooding without the need for a statutory duty.



**BRANDON LEWIS MP**