



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tam McFarlane
Executive Council Member, FBU South West
158 Muller Road
Horfield
Bristol BS7 9RE

Houses of Parliament
London
SW1A 0AA

3rd December 2012

Dear Mr McFarlane,

Thank you for your letter dated 27th November 2012 regarding the recent flooding in the South West.

I fully recognise the breadth and depth of the work undertaken by our Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and the bravery, dedication and professionalism of the men and women who work within it. People that work within the Service provide a trusted local service to their communities, whilst also responding to national emergencies when required.

As the Executive Council member for the FBU South West, I am sure that you are aware of the reasons why efficiency savings must be achieved but I do certainly accept that the flooding has placed an additional pressure on the FRS. I would therefore be happy to write to the Minister for Fire Services, Brandon Lewis MP, to pass along a copy of your letter and to ask for his comments. In particular, I will ask the Minister about the statutory duty; this is an issue I have been aware of for some time and I would be interested to learn whether there has been any movement on this matter. Once I have received his response, I will write to you again.

Thank you once again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Buckland

Robert Buckland MP