

Mr Bob Neill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
LONDON SW1E 5DU

4th August 2011

Dear Minister,


Please find enclosed the Local Government Association's recent review of the Fire Service College which is supported by the Fire Services Management Committee and the Fire Commission.

The review is a response to the current situation, in which the College is under-utilised, beset by debt and financial issues and in need of capital investment.

The review has concluded that the College has a vital role to play in ensuring consistency of standards of training to enhance national resilience, multi-agency working and interoperability. The group, chaired by Mr David Cartwright, considered a full range of options and the key recommendation is that its future can best be secured through a partnership with the private sector, with the fire sector responsible for providing governance, policy direction and standards. The private sector partner would be responsible for the operation of the College, the delivery of training and the development of the College's commercial market.

Early discussions with the private sector have been positive. However, future progress is contingent on the resolution of issues including ownership of the College's land, historic debt and options for amalgamation with other agency training facilities.

Mr Cartwright and I would welcome an early opportunity to meet with you to discuss the review and options for taking forward its recommendations.

Kind regards


Councillor Brian Coleman, AM FRSA
Chairman, LGA Fire Services Management Committee

Direct line 020 7664 3266 E-mail helen.murray@local.gov.uk

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ
Tel 020 7664 3000 Fax 020 7664 3030 Information Helpline 020 7664 3131 Web www.local.gov.uk