Attendance by the Fire Minister

**Purpose of report**

As background.

**Summary**

This session provides an opportunity for the Fire Commission membership to hear from the Fire Minister, Penny Mordaunt MP on her priorities for the fire and rescue service. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions. A biography of the Minister is attached at **Appendix A.**

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| **Recommendations**  Members are invited to ask questions regarding the current issues and challenges facing the fire and rescue service.  **Action**  Officers to take forward any follow up actions. |

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**Appendix A**

**Attendance by the Fire Minister**

**Penny Mordaunt MP – Minister for Coastal Communities, Local Growth and Resilience**

**Biography**

Penny Mordaunt MP was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government on 15 July 2014.

**Education**

She was educated at Oaklands RC Comprehensive School and at Reading University where she read Philosophy.

**Political career**

Penny worked for Conservative Central Office, becoming Head of Broadcasting under William Hague. In 2000 she served as Head of Foreign Press for George W. Bush’s presidential election campaign.

In Parliament, Penny served on the European Scrutiny Committee, Defence Select Committee, and as chairman of the APPGs for Life Science and for Ageing and Older People. In autumn 2013 she was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence, Rt Hon. Philip Hammond MP.

**Career outside politics**

Penny worked as an aid worker in post-revolutionary Romania before and during university. She was director of communications at Kensington & Chelsea Council and the Freight Transport Association and was a director of Diabetes UK, the Community Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. In 2004 Penny founded a media company, which she sold in 2010.

**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government**

The minister is responsible for:

* coastal communities
* local growth
* high streets, town centres and markets
* enterprise zones
* planning casework (supporting Brandon Lewis, Minister of State for Housing and Planning)
* fire, resilience and emergencies