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Our Ref: BN/BN/023355/10
Your Ref: SP

14 SEP 2010

Sue Phelps

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Thank you for your letter of 26 August advising that members of the West Midlands Regional Management Board have recommended to their constituent fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) that the RMB be dissolved at the end of the year.

In my announcement to the Ministerial Workshop on the Fire and Rescue Service on 28 July, I advised that the Secretary of State no longer expected to enforce FRAs' National Framework obligations to act regionally through RMBs - in effect, making the continuation of RMBs and participation in them voluntary.

Your proposal to dissolve the West Midlands RMB clearly accords with my announcement.

I shall be interested to learn in due course of any arrangements the constituent FRAs put in place for future collaborative working between themselves and with their neighbours.

Bob Neill
BOB NEILL MP