



Our ref MA/SG/1691/26

Cllr Dylan Rees  
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3 August 2026

Dear Cllr Rees,

My officials shared with you my Written Statement on 13 July regarding the continuation of the intervention in South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority until after the local government elections in 2027. I am now writing to set out what this means for fire and rescue governance across Wales as a whole and to confirm my commitment to achieving governance arrangements that are effective, sustainable and work for all three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs).

The implementation date for the governance reforms and membership changes remains unchanged for North Wales FRA from that set out in the [Fire and Rescue Services \(National Framework and Variation of Combination Schemes\) \(Wales\) Order 2026](#). The new arrangements will therefore take effect following the local government elections in 2027.

As you will be aware, the previous Government indicated that Mid and West Wales and North Wales FRAs would have an opportunity to learn from, and adapt to, the experience of implementing these changes in South Wales FRA first, before the reforms were introduced across Wales. Whilst the intervention in South Wales FRA will remain in place, work is already underway in South Wales to prepare for the future transition back to local control. That work includes the development of new governance structures, constitutional arrangements and the practical operation of the new authority model. The learning from that work will be valuable for both Mid and West Wales and North Wales FRAs, and colleagues in South Wales will share relevant information with you during 2026-27 to support your own plans and preparations.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr iaith honno ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

My officials have previously shared the training and development materials for FRA members, developed by the Welsh Local Government Association, together with our expectations regarding engagement with constituent authorities as part of the budget-setting process. Those materials may be used now, or in the future, to support preparation for the new arrangements. My officials will also engage with Chief Fire Officers on the practical considerations and timings associated with implementation, including the appointment of additional members.

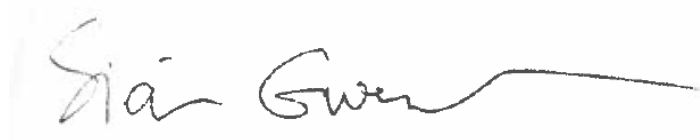
Alongside these wider governance arrangements, there has also been a recent change to the leadership of the intervention in South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority. As you are aware, Carl Foulkes has decided to step down from his role as Commissioner. I have decided to appoint former Deputy Chief Constable and Chief Constable for Dyfed-Powys Police, Claire Parmenter, as the replacement Commissioner.

As we move forward, I am committed to ensuring that we continue to work together to support the successful delivery of these changes. I would like to thank you for your continued engagement and support as we work collectively to strengthen fire and rescue governance in Wales.

You may have seen the [report](#) published on 29 July by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) providing an update on progress in South Wales FRS. The original and follow up assessments were commissioned by the SWFRA Commissioners to provide a whole service baseline for monitoring improvement across South Wales FRS. While the findings relate specifically to South Wales FRS, they highlight a number of issues and learning points that may be relevant for consideration within your own service.

I am copying this letter to CFO Dawn Docx and writing in similar terms to Councillor John Davies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siân Gwenllïan', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**Siân Gwenllïan AS/MS**

Cabinet Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning