

Report to	Executive Panel
Date	21 September 2026
Lead Officer	Dawn Docx, Chief Fire Officer
Contact Officer	
Subject	Governance Letter from Cabinet Minister



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This is a covering report to the letter received by the Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (NWFRA) from the Cabinet Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning. This letter is being presented for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 Following the Welsh Government elections in May 2026 and the change of administration, the Chair of NWFRA contacted the new Minister with the responsibility for Fire and Rescue and asked for confirmation regarding the proposed changes to the governance arrangements for Fire and Rescue Services in Wales.
- 3 On the 3rd August 2026 the Chair received the attached letter.
- 4 In this letter the Cabinet Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, Sian Gwenllian AS/MS, confirms that "The new arrangements will therefore take effect following the local government elections in 2027".

RECOMMENDATION

- 5 It is recommended that Members:
 - i) **Note the contents of the letter and the confirmation of new arrangements to be implemented after the local government elections in 2027**
 - ii) **Commission the Clerk to the Authority and the Chief Fire Officer to develop the new governance structures, constitutional arrangements and operating model to be presented to the current Fire Authority before it's dissolution in 2027.**

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Strong governance arrangements ensure that Fire and Rescue Services can provide sustainable services to meet the long term risks to the public.
Budget	As yet unknown
Legal	Arrangements are set out in the Fire and Rescue Services (National Framework and Variation of Combination Schemes) (Wales) Order 2026
Staffing	As yet unknown
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	The current legal protections for Equalities, Human Rights and the Welsh Language in the constitution and governance arrangements must be protected in the new arrangements.
Risks	Arrangements are yet to be devised and tested to determine if they provide sufficient governance and scrutiny of Fire and Rescue Services in Wales.