



Committee Clerk  
Communities, Equality and  
Local Government Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

*Gofynner am/  
Please ask for:*

Chief Fire Officer  
C Davies

*Rhif Est/Extn. No.*

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*Fy Nghyf/My Ref:*

CD/MT

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*Dyddiad/Date:*

13 March 2015

LG 18

Y Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol

Bil Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru): Cyfnod 1

Ymateb gan: Gwasanaeth Tan ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Dear Sir / Madam

### **Response from Mid and West Wales Fire Authority to the Consultation on the Local Government (Wales) Bill**

Mid and West Wales Fire Authority (MWWFA) would like to register its objection to the proposed provision set out in Section 10(9) of the Local Government (Wales) Bill, "to suspend the requirement under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 for the Welsh Ministers to hold an enquiry if they wish to revoke or amend a Fire and Rescue Combination Order as a consequence of a voluntary merger, even if Fire and Rescue Authorities may not agree with the proposed change".

Whilst MWWFA fully supports the work of Welsh Government to enable a programme of local government mergers and reform, it is concerned that the proposal set out in Section 10(9) of the Bill could result in there being insufficient consideration given to the impact of realigning structural boundaries. The Authority is also concerned of the impact such a proposal would have on local accountability and decision making.

MWWFA therefore does not support this Section of the Bill and would welcome the opportunity to engage fully in consultation.

Yours faithfully

Chris Davies  
Chief Fire Officer