

Local Government House, Smith Square,  
London, SW1P 2LN  
Telephone 020 7187 7335  
Employers' Secretary, Mike Walker

Direct Dial  
020 7187 7335  
020 7187 7336

e-mail: gill.gittins@lge.gov.uk

Appendix A  
CFO/178/06

## FIRE BRIGADES National Employers

Mr B Evans  
Assistant Chief Fire Officer  
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service  
Bridle Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L30 4YD

7 September 2006

Dear Bill

I write further to your letter of 6 September and acknowledge the points raised therein.

It is clearly beneficial to the process if the parties at local level are at least able to jointly identify the issues of difference between you and equally as importantly, the issues of agreement, before seeking external assistance.

The only additional point I would make is that, as previously mentioned, it is possible for the national Joint Secretaries to respond to a joint request for assistance at an earlier stage if there has genuinely been a breakdown in discussion such that this is not possible. However that does not appear to be the case in Merseyside where I understand talks are still on-going.

Whilst writing I would give an early "just in case" notification that I shall be on leave the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> September and whilst normally able to rearrange if necessary I shall not be able to do so on this occasion. However, other colleagues at LGE will be fully briefed in order to ensure you continue to receive our full support and if necessary Joint Secretary assistance.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely



**Gill Gittins**  
Principal Negotiating Officer