

20 March 2015

Public Accounts Committee
Value for Money Motorway and Trunk Road Investment
MTRI 21 – North Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Darren Millar AM
Committee Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



**Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Fire and Rescue Service**

Simon A Smith
Prif Swyddog Tân / Chief Fire Officer

Dear Mr Millar

Inquiry into value for money of Motorway and Trunk Road Investment

Chief Fire Officer, Simon Smith has asked me as the Head of Operational Service Delivery to respond to your letter of 11 March 2015 on his behalf.

In respect of the above inquiry, the Terms of Reference stated in your letter appear to be broad enough to consider all of the issues and options available to ensure effectiveness and value for money. The North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has no further comment to make on this area.

In response to your query regarding the Service's approach to managing road traffic accidents I can confirm that all road traffic collisions attended by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service are done so with the nearest available resource to ensure that any casualties can be released in the shortest timeframe. Road traffic incidents that we attend are notified to us via the 999 emergency lines and by our partners in the Welsh Ambulance Service and the North Wales Police. Where notification comes from our partners in North Wales Police, this is done so at a very early stage due to the co-location of our Services in the Joint Control Centre at Crud Y Dderwen, St Asaph.

Where we attend incidents that involve the closure of the road, the Service is already in an informed position due to being on scene, which allows the routing of other appliances around the affected area to attend other incidents. This is carried out through direction from our main Control room.

The Service is not required to attend all road traffic collisions and where these result in the closure of a road, on these occasions the Service is informed by the North Wales Trunk Road Agency for the main A55 and the Local Authorities for minor roads. This enables the Service to instigate diversions should there be a requirement to mobilise an appliance elsewhere.

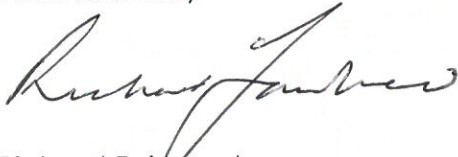
Whilst on scene and dealing with road traffic collisions, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service work closely with all partners to ensure that all actions are undertaken as efficiently as possible in regards to casualty extrication, making the vehicle safe and extinguishing fires. Where possible, crews utilise equipment on appliances to inhibit the view of the scene from passing motorists. Large salvage sheets are used for this purpose and generally cover the immediate sensitive area of the incident. The ability to screen off the whole area is unachievable by the Fire and Rescue Service and no specific equipment is provided for this.

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The Service has a statutory duty to respond to road traffic collisions under Section 8 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, and responds in line with the guidance set within the *Fire and Rescue Service Manual, Volume 2, Fire Service Operations, Incidents Involving Rescue from Road Vehicles* (HM Fire Service Inspectorate Publications Section, TSO, 2007).

If you require any further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Fairhead', written in a cursive style.

Richard Fairhead
Assistant Chief Fire Officer