



Committee Clerk
Communities, Equality and
Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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*Gofynner am/
Please ask for:*

Chief Fire Officer
C Davies

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Fy Nghyf/My Ref:

CD/MT

Eich Cyf/Your Ref:

Dyddiad/Date:

13 March 2015

LG 18

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
Local Government (Wales) Bill: Stage 1
Response from: Mid and West Wales fire and Rescue Service

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