



**Kent Fire &  
Rescue Service**

**Headquarters**

The Godlands  
Tovil  
Maidstone ME15 6XB

**T** 01622 692121  
**F** 01622 698320  
**Minicom** 01622 674691

To

Mr Andrew Lock  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Zone 5/J2  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU

Contact

Charles Kerr

Date

15 January 2013

Direct line

01622 692121 ext 8205

Direct Fax

01622 698210

E-mail

charles.kerr@kent.fire-uk.org

Our ref

Your ref

Dear Mr Lock

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT FOR 2013/14**

Thank you for the email from your colleague Karen Sussex, dated 20 December 2012, clarifying the proposed provisional financial settlement for the 2013/14 financial year. The Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority (KMFRA) is pleased to note that the settlement is broadly in line with the indicative figures detailed in the Local Government Resource Review consultation, therefore assisting this Authority in developing realistic medium term financial plans. The KMFRA also appreciates that CLG has continued to keep specific section 31 grants from being consolidated within the formula, given the importance of these functions such as Urban Search and Rescue, as it allows them to be directed to those authorities which perform that particular function.

However, the KMFRA recognises that this now reflects the start of major funding changes for local government, particularly at a time when council tax benefits are also being localised. Despite the measures to limit the impact of unintended consequences or the unforeseen effects of changes, this Authority would urge that the Government maintains a flexible approach to the length of the reset period for the review of the system of top-ups, tariffs, safety nets and levies, etc rather than adhere strictly to the proposed seven years.

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Chief Executive  
Ann Millington

In conclusion, it continues to be an economically difficult and changing period in which to establish financial plans, however this two year provisional settlement has helped to restore some clarity over the future direction of the Authority.

Yours sincerely

**Ann Millington**  
*Chief Fire Officer*