



Matt Wrack General Secretary
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Our Ref: MW/jh

Letter sent by email to Carol.Downes@hse.gov.uk

Ms Carol Downes MBE
Acting HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety
Health and Safety Executive
Foundry House
3 Millsands
Riverside Exchange
Sheffield, S3 8NH

31 May 2023

Dear Carol,

We first wrote to the HSE over a year ago on 27 May 2022 regarding certain operational provisions that have been introduced by a number of fire and rescue services in England and which have committed those authorities to working practices which are both unlawful and unsafe for firefighters who serve under them. The letter further asked the HSE to investigate our complaint and to use its statutory powers to bring an end to these dangerous practices.

Following our original, complaint we further wrote requesting response or update on 8 September 2022; 23 September 2022; 13 January 2023; and 17 March 2023. In your response dated 21 March 2023, you eventually informed us we could expect a reply on or shortly after 21 April 2023. Despite this, no response has been received.

Our local officials have now been informed that the HSE has completed their investigations and informed the relevant Fire and Rescue Services of the outcome. We shall comment on the outcome further once we have received your response to our complaint.

It is incredibly disappointing that after not responding to the serious health and safety matters raised in our original complaint for over a year, we have to find out the outcome in this manner from a third party. This is unprofessional and discourteous. It is difficult to consider this as anything other than an insult to the Fire Brigades Union and the members we represent.

I look forward to a full and immediate response to our complaint, no later than five working days from the date of this letter. The FBU is now considering all options available to us in response to what appears to be a perverse and dangerous decision on your part.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Wrack".

Matt Wrack
General Secretary

Cc: Sarah Newton - HSE Chair of the Board
Sarah Albon - HSE Chief Executive
Clare Sullivan - HSE
Ged Nichols - HSE
David Coates - HSE
Paul Nowak - TUC General Secretary
Shelly Asquith - TUC