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NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

**To: Chief Fire Officers
Chief Executives/Clerks to Fire Authorities
Chairs of Fire Authorities
Directors of Human Resources at Fire Authorities**

Members of the National Joint Council

26 March 2012

CIRCULAR NJC/4/12

Dear Sir / Madam

DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL

BACKGROUND

1. You will be aware that in order to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee an official medal will be awarded by the UK Government to those in the Armed Forces and emergency services, and to prison service personnel.
2. Circular NJC/2/12 advised authorities that the National Joint Council had written to the Fire Minister in England (as DCLG is the relevant department) expressing concern that fire control employees appeared to not be regarded as falling within the eligibility criteria.

CURRENT POSITION

3. A copy of the response is attached.
4. Given the position of the NJC, your attention is drawn to the reference to Chief Fire Officers having 'a degree of latitude'.

Yours faithfully
SARAH MESSENGER
MATT WRACK
Joint Secretaries



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Dear Sarah & Matt

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL

Thank you for your joint letter of 20 February advocating that emergency control room staff should automatically receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

In June last year the Department for Culture Media and Sport issued the high level criteria for the medal, on behalf of all Government Departments:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/8243.aspx. The guidance flagged that individual Government Departments and the Devolved Administrations would issue the detailed qualifying criteria applying to their personnel – whilst adhering to the principles agreed.

Eligibility for the Diamond Jubilee Medal follows the same criteria as used for the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. This applies to all the emergency services: only those personnel who are called to attend emergencies, potentially placing themselves in danger and with at least five years service as of 6th February 2012 are eligible to receive the medal.

I fully acknowledge the challenging and vital role emergency control room staff deliver on a daily basis. Exceptionally, as you point out, some are called upon to attend the scene of 999 response calls and therefore potentially place themselves in danger. As for the Golden Jubilee Medal, Chief Fire Officers have a degree of latitude to include such individuals.

I am sure you appreciate the need for consistency of approach, across all the emergency services. Each member of which are carrying out essential work, which is worthy of our praise and thanks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Neill".

BOB NEILL MP