



AH/nl

5 April 2017

Steve Yates  
Democratic Services and Corporate Support Manager  
c/o M Pearson  
Service Headquarters  
The Knowle, Clyst St George  
Exeter Devon  
EX3 0NW

Dear Steve

Thank you for your letter of 20 January 2017 inviting the Avon and Somerset and Devon and Cornwall PCCs to join the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority in a non-voting capacity. We are very keen to work with you and to continue to develop the collaborative initiatives which have been begun as part of the South West Emergency Services Forum and also to build on the excellent cooperation we have had around Estates matters.

My experience, in Avon Fire Authority, is that a PCC attending Fire Authority meetings in a non-voting capacity is not helpful for expectations of the parties involved and expectations of stakeholders and the public. As you know, from April PCCs are able to be invited to join Fire Authorities in a voting capacity. We are also aware that with the upcoming elections this May, the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority will be looking at its membership as part of that election process. We would therefore suggest that it would be more helpful if you want the PCCs to participate in the Fire Authority for Devon and Somerset Fire Authority to ask the two PCCs to join the Fire Authority in a voting capacity. This would give clarity to all involved including stakeholders and the public that the PCCs are formally part of the Fire Authority rather than merely attending or observing parts of meetings and/or not voting on key matters.

We are of course happy to discuss this.

Best regards

Yours sincerely

Alison Hernandez  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
Devon and Cornwall

Sue Mountstevens  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
Avon and Somerset

cc. Mark Healey