



Liz Twist MP
House of Commons

Chris Lowther
Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue
Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Nissan Way
Sunderland SR5 3QY

Our Ref: LT16008

27 July 2021

Dear Mr Lowther,

Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service IRMP consultation

Thank you for writing to me to set out the changes which you propose making as a result of the latest IRMP. While I am glad to welcome some changes, such as the provision of an additional appliance at West Denton and the proposal to fully crew the aerial ladder, you will not be surprised to hear that I am extremely unhappy and object to the proposal to strip overnight cover from Birtley fire station in my constituency. I particularly note the contrast with the proposal for revised staffing for the Rainton Bridge fire station which is affected by the same ruling on shift patterns.

You will, of course, remember that it is not very long since we lost a second appliance from Swalwell station, also in my constituency, and it seems to me completely unacceptable that we should now see a further reduction in service to the communities in my constituency. A number of constituents have already contacted me to express their concern and to object to this change and I am aware that local councillors from Birtley and Lamesley wards have also expressed their objection to this proposal.

I have always sought to support our fire and rescue services and to make the case for additional funding and a fairer share of resources, and was very proud to be able to present my Angel Awards to the crews at Birtley, Chopwell and Swalwell stations. That support for our local firefighters continues but this proposal is unacceptable.

To be absolutely clear about this, I am asking you and the fire authority, to withdraw this proposal and to come up with alternative proposals which will provide full overnight cover at the Birtley station.

The communities of Blaydon constituency have already seen their Fire and Rescue service significantly reduced and this is a step too far. They deserve better.

I look forward to your urgent response.

Yours sincerely

Liz Twist MP
Member of Parliament for Blaydon



Liz Twist MP
Member of Parliament
Blaydon Constituency

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