



Fire and Rescue Services Association

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Tristan Ashby: Chief Executive Officer

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Sent by email

**To: NFCC Chair, Roy Wilsher
National Employers Chair, Nick Chard**

Dear Roy/Nick

Joint Statement

I have today been made aware of the joint statement made by the National Employers, NFCC and the FBU (*we have not had the courtesy of being sent a copy directly to us*). The statement makes no mention of any other party being involved despite representations and conversations taking place earlier this week and last week regarding the availability of our members (and others) being willing to work outside of normal working practices, subject to the appropriate assurances over PPE, training and safe systems of work.

The statement and the presentation given to the media and wider public today, portrays a situation whereby the FBU is representing all firefighters across the UK and without their agreement a hybrid role undertaken by Fire Services could not take place. This completely undermines the thousands of firefighters (*inc. Control Staff*) who are not members of the FBU through choice.

Today's joint statement makes no reference to these selfless, committed and honourable employees who for the last seven days have been offering their professional services to be utilised to support our emergency partners.

It makes no comment about the On-Call firefighters across the country who have for the last week already been working outside of their contracts to maintain and even increase appliance availability. Neither does it acknowledge that On-Call firefighters cover approx. 90% of the UK landmass and will continue to do so during this national crisis.

Firefighters across the country have been undertaking duties outside of the national role map for years, including Co-Responder Schemes, Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack (MTFA), TeleCare, 'Safe and Well' visits and supporting ambulance staff to gain entry to property to name a few. This has always been supported by the FRSA who remain open-minded to the evolving role of the Fire and Rescue Service.

The statement and the management of its publication is disrespectful to thousands of firefighters across the UK and other Representative Bodies in the sector. These people

have time and again risen to the challenge when called upon while others continue to play a political game at the expense of public safety and protection.

We are very disappointed at the narrow-minded approach being taken. The findings of HMICFRS as published in its 'State of Fire' report are being replicated at a national level, we can only hope that the recommendations contained in the report are to be acted upon when normality resumes so that firefighters can be better served by its leaders in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T Ashby', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Tristan Ashby
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Fire Minister, Chief Fire Officers and Fire Authority Chairs