



**Fire and Rescue Services Association**

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**Tristan Ashby:** Chief Executive Officer

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Date: 16 April 2020

To: **All Chief Fire Officers** (*sent by email*)

**Supporting On-Call Staff**

You will be aware that last month I wrote to NFCC Chair, Roy Wilsher to raise our concerns over the potential financial hardship On-Call firefighters were likely to experience during the national 'lockdown'.

This is due to a number of unique but necessary circumstances that Fire and Rescue Services are currently working under which include, a reduction in fire calls, an increase in the number of personnel available to respond to calls and a temporary reduction in the maximum ridership levels. These factors combined will have a detrimental impact on the earnings for On-Call staff.

Added to this, the vast majority of these firefighters are also likely to suffer in their primary employment earnings, which could range from a 20-100% reduction, all of which have the potential to affect the retention of On-Call firefighters if not addressed appropriately.

Following our correspondence, the NFCC and the FRSA worked together to produce a guidance document identifying ways of lessening the financial hardship currently being experienced by these employees. This guidance was published last week and for reference I have attached a copy to this letter.

I therefore request that, in partnership with our local FRSA representative, a process is undertaken to enact this guidance to identify and support those members of your service who are experiencing financial hardship due to the effects of the COVID-19 lockdown.

For many years Chief Fire Officers have spoken warm words of thanks and recognition of the fantastic dedication On-Call firefighters (and their families) have given their local communities. Now is not the time for more verbal gestures but of action to show real appreciation of the commitment and service these individuals have shown for many years.

I trust that this letter will receive your immediate attention.

Yours sincerely

Tristan Ashby  
Chief Executive Officer, FRSA

Cc: Fire Minister, James Brokenshire MP  
NFCC Chair, Roy Wilsher