

Minister for Community Safety

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Conveners of Fire Authorities and Joint Fire Boards

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SPENDING REVIEW AND SCOTLAND'S FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

DELIVERING THE RIGHT OUTCOMES

I am writing to you to set out how today's Budget will affect Scotland's Fire and Rescue Services and Scottish Resilience.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth today made a statement to Parliament setting out the Scottish Government's Budget proposals for the 2011/12 financial year.

These decisions, including those for Scottish Resilience, are made within the context of the Scottish Government's overarching priorities, to:

- Support economic recovery and increasing sustainable economic growth;
- Protect public services on which people depend and which are most effective in tackling deep seated problems and delivering real benefits and delivering better outcomes for the people of Scotland; and
- Establish a competitive advantage through our approach to climate change.

The Scottish Resilience share of the total Justice Portfolio Budget for 2011/12 will be £18.3m, which is £2.5m (12%) less than in 2010/11. This reduction reflects extensive efficiency gains across Scottish Resilience, particularly in relation to the management of the Firelink contract and the national learning and development fund which are both administered by the Scottish Resilience.

In 2011-12 Scottish Resilience will focus resources on

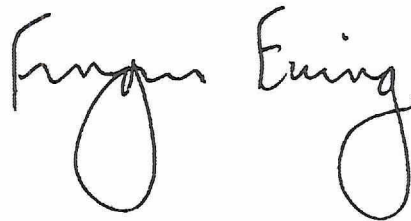
- The training of fire and rescue personnel at The Scottish Fire Services College and through a national learning and development fund.
- Continuing to fund and maintain the Firelink communications systems as a shared communications platform on behalf of all fire and rescue services.
- National and local multi-agency capabilities designed to ensure that Scotland is prepared to deal with the consequences of an emergency;

as well as providing advice to Ministers on all aspects of Fire and Rescue Services and civil contingencies.

It has been agreed that Fire Capital Grant will remain ring-fenced within the Local Government settlement. However a number of details of the Local Government Settlement, in particular around capital, are still being finalised in consultation with COSLA. As soon as the discussions with COSLA have been concluded I will write to you and other stakeholders with proposals in relation to the amount of grant in 2011-12 and how it should be allocated. These will be discussed at the Ministerial Advisory Group on 6th December after which I will make final decisions.

I am copying this letter to all Chief Fire Officers and Clerks to the Authorities, as well as members of the Ministerial Advisory Group.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fergus Ewing'. The signature is written in a cursive style with large, rounded loops for the letters 'F' and 'E'.

FERGUS EWING