

Response ID ANON-6TER-VJ4U-A

Submitted to **Your Service...Your Voice: A consultation on the safe and planned future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**
Submitted on **2018-05-09 15:50:17**

Your Details

What is your name?

Name:

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Are you responding on*:

who are you responding on behalf of:

An organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Scottish Community Safety Network

Your Service

Do you agree with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service overall vision for Transformation

Yes

Please say in the box below what the main benefits for Scotland will be: :

Overall we believe the main benefit for Scotland will be a more flexible service that is, whether through more modern technology and equipment or different crewing and operating models, better matched to 21st century demands.

We particularly support the SFRS' enhanced commitment to prevention proposed as part of this transformation and think this is a real strength of the current service and look forward to seeing this grow in the coming months and years.

Your Voice

Statement

opinion - I trust the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to change its operating model – including station footprint - in ways that are safe for Scotland:

Agree

opinion - Firefighters should be trained and equipped to meet the new and emerging risks Scotland faces:

Agree

opinion - Firefighters should be rewarded for taking on an expanded role, and in accordance with the risks they take:

Agree

opinion - Latest technology should be used where possible to improve firefighter and public safety:

Agree

opinion - Firefighters could be trained to take on roles that would reduce the burden on other public services:

Agree

opinion - A more flexible approach to crewing during the late evening and early morning hours would allow firefighters to do more during the day when demand is higher.:

Agree

Please say why you agreed or disagreed, in the box below::

We think the consultation document sets out the drivers for this change in a clear and understandable way. We do, however, have the following comments on the statements:

- The motivation for firefighters to take on additional roles – for example in relation to unintentional harm prevention and early intervention in preventing offending by young people – should not be about reducing the burden on other public services, but rather supporting and complementing the wider prevention landscape.

- Regarding station footprints and crewing models – we acknowledge and support the changes to station footprints and crewing models but these must be based on robust evidence and still allow SFRS to respond to major incident in the same way as it can currently; or better. Any disposal of the buildings should be in accordance with community empowerment principles and we feel there should be additional consultation on these proposed changes.

What single thing is most important to you about the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?:

Preventing and responding to fires with the primary aim to prevent loss of life or injury and limit damage to buildings and/or property.

Do you think there is anything the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service should NOT do as part of transformation?:

No, we are supportive of all the changes proposed within the transformation document. We would stress that firefighters must be adequately supported to undertake this enhanced role in prevention – whether in unintentional harm, youths, antisocial behaviour or offending – through initial training and on-going support from experts in these areas (this includes people with ‘lived experience’ and partners). This work must complement the work already underway and equip firefighters with the relevant skills to undertake this enhanced role. Both the enhanced role and activities and the training and support should be designed in partnership and not by the fire service alone, and have national consistency with local flexibility.

It will be important to be mindful of the high levels of trust people have in SFRS and ensure any transformation or enhanced role in prevention doesn’t damage this.

Do you have any final comment to make on the transformation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?:

The consultation document didn’t include any comments / feedback from a) firefighters b) any other services who had undertaken this role transformation and didn’t include any impact assessment that looked at the potential risks or ‘dis-benefits’ which we felt would have provided a more rounded proposal for consultation and allowed an even more informed and balanced response.

I do not wish my response to be published

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No