

Date: 18 February 2016

Our ref: SF/ER

**Oxfordshire County Council
Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters
Sterling Road
Kidlington
Oxfordshire OX5 2DU**

**David Etheridge
Chief Fire Officer**

Mr C Hall
Department of Communities and Local
Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear

Re: ESMCP Sign Off from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) have signed to confirm that we will transition to the new Emergency Services Network via the Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP). This is subject to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) providing all reasonable transition funding for the Programme between 2016 and 2019.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service would also like to qualify that this is subject to:

1. Full compliance with the transition criteria that is determined by OFRS, which is based on the user specification for ESMCP.
2. Provision of a full breakdown of the costing schedule for additional user requirements for the period of the contract, e.g. additional data requirements or additional devices.
3. The provision of a detailed breakdown of what the programme is providing on a fully funded "like for like" basis.
4. There is no transfer of costs associated with ESN or ESMCP prior to the completion of full cutover and agreement that all cutover criteria have been achieved.

We are fully supportive of the aims of the project to provide a better, smarter and cheaper mobile communications service for the three emergency services. However, in this period of financial challenge it would be incorrect of us not to ensure that the decisions we make are based on sound financial and operational information.

We understand that the full business case is built on predicted costs in a number of areas and therefore we would also request that our Fire Authority is provided with updated financial information as soon as it is made available to the programme, to ensure that it is still providing best value to our organisation and the communities we serve.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Rodney Rose
Deputy Leader of Oxfordshire County Council
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/fire