



**Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil**  
Environment, Community and Local Government



✓ 2/10/13  
(for Dec. Agenda)

**Oifig an Aire**

Office of the Minister  
November, 2013.

Mr Thomas O'Neill,  
Meetings Administrator,  
South Dublin County Council,  
County Hall,  
Tallaght,  
Dublin 24



**RE: REP3747/PH/13**

Dear Mr O'Neill,

I have been asked by Mr Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to refer again to your recent letter regarding a motion passed by the elected members of South Dublin County Council in relation to the operation of fire services out of Tallaght Fire Station.

The provision of fire services by Dublin City Council on behalf of the four Dublin local authorities, including South Dublin County Council, is based on a risk management approach which involves an analysis of the nature of the fire hazards and the incidence and extent of fires which occur as well as the fire protection measures in place. This Department provides support through the setting of general policy and guidance, and the provision of capital funding, including the recoupment (within the overall funding available) of costs incurred by fire authorities in relation to the approved purchase of fire appliances and emergency equipment as well as construction and upgrading of fire stations.

Regarding call handling facilities for the taking of emergency calls from members of the public, fire authorities have successfully worked together with this Department on a shared services initiative known as CAMP (Computer Aided Mobilisation Project). Under the CAMP system emergency calls for the fire service are channelled to one of three regional communication centres at Castlebar, Limerick and Dublin and the appropriate fire brigade response is activated from the relevant centre. Kildare Fire Authority has recently migrated its emergency call handling to the East Region Communications Centre (ERCC) based in Dublin's Townsend Street. As part of this change and to ensure implementation of the policy whereby the nearest fire service resource (in terms of speed of arrival) responds to an incident, Kildare Fire Authority has conducted an analysis of its functional area. The Minister understands that the outcome of this process showed Tallaght fire station as providing the nearest fire appliance for a small area of Kildare. It is understood that Dublin Fire Brigade has previously mobilised responses to this area on foot of requests received from Kildare.

Regarding the reference in the motion to concerns about possible overstretching of cover in the area served by Tallaght fire station, the practise within Dublin Fire Brigade has been to ensure immediate stand-by fire cover is provided when there is potential for such an eventuality to arise. It is a common occurrence that support is provided to Tallaght fire station by fire crews from the network of Dublin fire stations including Blanchardstown, Dolphins Barn, Rathfarnham and Townsend Street.

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The Minister has asked me to say that he has no direct role in the management of fire service operations in and between individual fire authorities, however he is confident that the arrangements now being put in place by both Dublin Fire Brigade and Kildare Fire Authority will serve to maintain and enhance the response to those members of the public who need emergency services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Kiernan', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

**Eddie Kiernan,**  
**Private Secretary**