

Date :-

Mr J Duckworth  
Chief Executive  
Isle of Wight Council  
County Hall  
High Street  
NEWPORT  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 1UD

Dear Mr Duckworth

### THE ISLAND'S FIRE SERVICE PROPOSED MERGER

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to have a voice in the consultation process for the proposed merger of the Island's Fire Service with Hampshire.

I understand that our new Fire Service management team have made savings of £600,000 in the past year and are continuing to work more efficiently with plans to make even more savings in the future. I believe recent audits have shown the Island's Fire Service to be improving at a steady pace with modernisation.

The Conservative administration manifesto pledge stated it would keep the Island's Fire Service under the control of the Island people. Why have they gone back on this promise?

- Can the savings mentioned in the report be guaranteed to reduce my council tax every year?
- Will Hampshire charge us for running the Fire Service as they have with the Police Service precept?
- Is it true that Hampshire want to take on the Island's Fire Service so that they can improve their own statistics, in view of the Island's excellent response times and extremely low number of fire deaths compared with Hampshire?

As these questions have not been answered in the merger report I wish to register my view that I do not want the Island's Fire Service to fully merge with Hampshire Fire Service, and I consider that the best way forward would be to continue as we are with collaboration with the most cost effective Fire Services nationally.

Please acknowledge my letter and I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely