



House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Immediate release
17 June 2014

Sarah voices concern over Rotherham's fire services

Sarah Champion MP has this week written to the Minister for Fire, Brandon Lewis, to express concern over the safety of Rotherham residents if the Government does not help avert industrial action from fire fighters.

In her letter, Sarah, who is the MP for Rotherham, highlighted her frustration that Rotherham fire station has already moved from using two fire engines to just one, in a bid to cut costs. She argued that unless the Government releases vital financial information on fire fighter pensions, any industrial action would put the safety of Rotherham residents put at risk.

In her letter Sarah wrote: "I have personally visited the fire station in Rotherham to discuss pensions with local fire fighters, and there is great concern on this issue from fire fighters that have worked hard throughout their lives to protect the public.

"Rotherham's fire station is already facing difficult circumstances due to the removal of one fire engine leaving Rotherham fire fighters with only a single engine to respond to emergencies.

"I am concerned that if you are unable to release information on the Government's proposals for fire fighter pensions, this may lead to industrial action, which will further compromise the safety of Rotherham residents."

Speaking afterwards, Sarah commented: "Rotherham Fire fighters are an incredible, dedicated group yet they are under huge pressure from cuts. It is imperative that the Government does everything possible to avert any industrial action by fire fighters, and at the moment they just seem to be ignoring them. Rotherham has already suffered the loss of one of their two fire engines, this concerns me greatly as it must affect safety. I will continue to speak out on this until the protection of local residents is assured."

ENDS NR031

Notes to Editors:

For further information about this press release please contact:

Dawn Elliott

Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Sarah Champion MP

Moorgate Crofts Business Centre

South Grove

Rotherham

S60 2DH

Telephone: 01709 331038

Email: dawn.elliott@parliament.uk

Website: www.sarahchampionmp.com