



Ein cyf/Our ref FM /05008/24

Glynn Luznyj
Fire Leaders Association
Glynn.Luznyj@staffordshirefire.gov.uk

9 April 2024

Dear Glynn,

I am writing in response to your letter of 25 March reiterating your complaint that the then Deputy Minister for Social Partnership misled the Senedd's Equality and Social Justice Committee when giving evidence to it on 26 February. In particular, you allege that she said the former Chief Fire Officer of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS), Huw Jakeway, had left his post before she appointed Commissioners to oversee SWFRS on 6 February.

You ask for your complaint to be handled under the second stage of the Welsh Government complaints procedure. The Welsh Government Complaints Process deals with cases where individuals feel that they have suffered as a result of maladministration or service failure by us. Concerns raised about the conduct of Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers are dealt with under the provisions of the Ministerial Code, which I have applied here.

As my predecessor said to you in his letter of 19 March, the then Deputy Minister did not make the claim that you allege. She said simply that Mr Jakeway "has left the post now". Phrased in the present tense, that means only that Mr Jakeway was not the Chief Fire Officer at the point she made the statement. That is true, as the Commissioners directed him to stand aside on 7 February, and placed him on administrative leave until his planned retirement. She clearly did not say that Mr Jakeway "*had* left the post *before the Commissioners arrived*" or anything similar. Indeed, she said nothing about the basis for Mr Jakeway's departure, nor did she claim that it had occurred before the Commissioners took up office.

Therefore, the Committee was not misled and there was no need for the accompanying officials to correct the record. Nor is there any need for an apology to Mr Jakeway. As my predecessor pointed out, what the then Deputy Minister said was true and phrased in neutral language; she did not make any criticism of Mr Jakeway personally.

VAUGHAN GETHING

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

