



Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
1 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

9 October 2024

Dear Mr Crompton

Thank you for your report on Governance of Fire and Rescue Authorities published on 10 September.

Please find attached the completed Management Response Form which indicates that we accept in full the recommendation that Audit Wales has made to the Welsh Government

The Welsh Government has already undertaken some early engagement with Local Authorities, FRA Chairs and the SWFRS Commissioners on Fire and Rescue Service governance reform and we are considering the feedback we have received. We plan on further engagement with stakeholders in the next few months to inform our consultation proposals prior to undertaking formal consultation in 2025. Following consultation we plan to make the necessary changes to legislation in 2026 with implementation of new governance arrangements after that.

A key element of our considerations is to ensure Fire and Rescue Authority members have the appropriate skills, knowledge and expertise to undertake the role, and that arrangements are in place to keep this under review. We will also build into our considerations the recommendations made by the Senedd's Equalities and Social Justice Committee in their Report "Sound the Alarm".

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.

We will share our more detailed proposals with you in due course.

I am copying this letter to the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sioned Evans', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Sioned Evans,
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol, Grŵp Addysg, Diwylliant a'r Gymraeg
Director General, Education, Culture and Welsh Language Group

Management response form

Report title: Governance of Fire and Rescue Authorities

Completion date: 7 October 2024

Document reference: [Governance of Fire and Rescue Authorities | Audit Wales](#)

Ref	Recommendation	Management response Please set out here relevant commentary on the planned actions in response to the recommendations	Completion date Please set out by when the planned actions will be complete	Responsible officer (title)
R1	<p>We recommend that the Welsh Government reviews the governance model to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the membership of fire and rescue authorities ensures appropriate knowledge, expertise and diversity to effectively discharge their governance roles; andthere are clear accountability arrangements to regularly evaluate the contribution of FRA members.	<p>We accept the recommendation. The Welsh Government is developing proposals for new governance arrangements for the fire and rescue service in Wales with plans to consult on these in 2025, with a view to introducing amended secondary legislation in 2026. The proposals will fully encompass the recommendation made by Audit Wales regarding FRA membership.</p>	<p>2025 - Consultation on proposals for FRS Governance Reform</p> <p>2026 – Secondary Legislation introduced.</p>	<p>Deputy Director, Community Safety Division</p>