Dear Matt

Pay award 2009

Considerable discussion has taken place on the matter of a pay award for this year both through the Joint Working Party and at Joint Secretary level. You will be aware from those discussions that there have been a range of conflicting factors within a set of highly unusual circumstances that we have had to take into consideration for this year’s pay settlement.

Whilst the National Employers must always be mindful of a range of factors, for example affordability, this year we have also had to consider the exceptional impact of the current difficult economic climate upon those factors.

Following the discussions referred to earlier, the verbal indication of your claim at the last National Joint Council meeting on 3rd June and subsequent written confirmation in your letter of 15 June I write to advise you that we are now in a position to make an offer to settle this year’s pay negotiations.

That offer is 1.25% to be applied across the board with effect from 1 July 2009. The offer is made in the context of the current economic recession and the impact it has had on both employers and employees across the economy, including those in the public sector.
We believe settlement at this level would be fair to uniformed fire service employees and to the authorities who employ them. I must emphasise that this figure is at the absolute maximum level of affordability and is offered in the spirit of reaching a negotiated settlement.

We understand that you may wish to consult upon this offer and therefore would be grateful to receive a response as soon as you are aware of the outcome of that consultation, which we hope will be concluded by the end of July.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Messenger
Employers’ Side Secretary