

MTA Specialist Responder Capability Agreement

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) and Greater Manchester Fire Brigades Union (GMFBU)

1. GMFRS and GMFBU are agreed upon the importance of ensuring GMFRS has a specialist responder capability in place for dealing with marauding terrorism, drawn from within its own service.
2. Subject to natural minimal fluctuations, such a specialist responder capability will comprise 120 personnel (inclusive of 20 NILOs) to facilitate a MTA specialist responder capability team (24/7). Such personnel will carry out MTA training, exercising and response. They may be already based at the locations set out in paragraph 3 below but could be from different locations dependent upon available volunteers.
3. For the purpose of this agreement, the term 'specialist responder' refers to those personnel (based on the establishment at Heywood, Leigh TRU, Ashton TRU and NILOs) whose role is to work within the Warm Zone of a declared MTA event. Personnel currently based at these stations will be offered a mutually acceptable alternative posting if they do not wish to volunteer.
4. In the first instance volunteers will be sought from the pre-existing GMFRS responder resource.
5. The minimum role of a NILO shall be Station Manager (substantive or temporary). It may be that GMFRS will exercise the option of giving temporary promotion for appropriate managers to be NILOs.
6. An annual MTA specialist responder allowance will be paid to members of the resource to which this agreement applies (as outlined in paragraph 3 above). The figures will rise in accordance with NJC for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services basic pay awards.

FF	1798
CM	1898
WM	2097
NILO - SM	2198
NILO - GM	2298

7. Whilst undertaking this work shall be voluntary, in order to ensure a known specialist responder capability is in place and recognising the investment in training and equipment, such volunteers will be committing to continuing to be active members of the capability for the duration of this agreement or for the remainder of the agreement if joining the resource between the date of the agreement until the cessation of the agreement period.

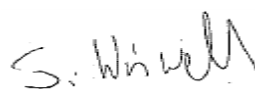
8. This agreement will remain in place for 8 months from the date of signature below. This includes the time necessary to ensure the equipment is available and training has taken place. As soon as that has been carried out the specialist responder capability will go live.
9. Should the related national discussions not have successfully concluded by the cessation date, the period of the agreement may of course be extended by mutual agreement between the two local parties. In respect of any proposed renewal, discussion should commence six weeks in advance of the cessation date. This would be with a view to renewing the agreement.
10. In the event of a national agreement at the NJC being reached, both parties commit to implement the nationally agreed arrangements subject to the principle of no financial detriment in comparison to the national pay position for any remainder period up to the cessation date. For the avoidance of doubt, any other requirements of employees arising from the national agreement will also apply to these individuals.
11. Both sides are committed to high standards of health and safety. As with all activities, arrangements are the subject of periodic and event-based review and this will apply to work under this agreement. Where appropriate GMFRS and GMFBU commits to open disclosure of documentation in accordance with the normal processes of both industrial relations and health and safety.
12. Only those individuals who have been trained and equipped as part of this specialist responder capability will be deployed into the warm zone at a known MTA incident. All non-specialist responders who have inadvertently been mobilised to a call which transpires to be an MTA incident will not be required to work in the warm zone.
13. For the avoidance of doubt, no-one in the firefighter role who is a "trainee" shall be assigned to the resource to which this agreement refers. In the firefighter role, only those firefighters who are competent in role shall ordinarily be assigned to the resource to which this agreement refers. Initially however, firefighters currently in development and based at the stations in paragraph 3 above may be used. This shall be where in exceptional circumstances, notably to ensure resilience of the capability, in the context of crewing arrangements, there is a need to assign a firefighter in development. This will only apply where the firefighter in development has passed their mid-point assessment, and furthermore, this will only be advanced following the exhaustion of all other options, and with the approval and agreement of the development firefighter. The situation will be kept under review in the context of general safety issues and any impact on an individual's progression through development. The provision regarding competency/in development will not apply to those who are crew managers or above.
14. Again, for the avoidance of doubt, the terms of this agreement ensures that members of the specialist responder capability team who attend MTA incidents will be acting in accordance with the instructions of the fire and rescue service as part of their main contract (for the duration of this and any subsequent agreement) and therefore are eligible for the benefits of a. the respective statutory pension scheme of which they are a member and b. the Firefighters Compensation Scheme Order 2006 (as amended from time to time).

15. On the basis of this agreement, the FBU will encourage volunteers to support the formation and maintenance of this specialist responder capability.
16. GMFRS and GMFBU will jointly communicate with staff, initially at the three locations, to articulate both parties support for reinstating the specialist responder capability under the terms of this agreement.

Signed:



Dave Russel
Chief Fire Officer
GMFRS



Steve Wiswell
Brigade Secretary
GMFBU

Date: 10th December 2020