



Sarah Messenger
Matt Wrack
Joint Secretaries
National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire
and Rescue Services
Local Government House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

Bob Neill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

**Department for Communities and Local
Government**

Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: 0303 444 3430
Fax: 0303 444 3986
E-Mail: bob.neill@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.communities.gov.uk

Our Ref: BN/BN/006024/12

2 8 FEB 2012

Dear Sarah & Matt

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL

Thank you for your joint letter of 20 February advocating that emergency control room staff should automatically receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

In June last year the Department for Culture Media and Sport issued the high level criteria for the medal, on behalf of all Government Departments:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/8243.aspx. The guidance flagged that individual Government Departments and the Devolved Administrations would issue the detailed qualifying criteria applying to their personnel – whilst adhering to the principles agreed.

Eligibility for the Diamond Jubilee Medal follows the same criteria as used for the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. This applies to all the emergency services: only those personnel who are called to attend emergencies, potentially placing themselves in danger and with at least five years service as of 6th February 2012 are eligible to receive the medal.

I fully acknowledge the challenging and vital role emergency control room staff deliver on a daily basis. Exceptionally, as you point out, some are called upon to attend the scene of 999 response calls and therefore potentially place themselves in danger. As for the Golden Jubilee Medal, Chief Fire Officers have a degree of latitude to include such individuals.

I am sure you appreciate the need for consistency of approach, across all the emergency services. Each member of which are carrying out essential work, which is worthy of our praise and thanks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Neill".

BOB NEILL MP