

Employers' Secretary, Sarah Messenger
Local Government House, Smith Square,
London, SW1P 3HZ
Telephone 020 7187 7335
e-mail: firequeries@ge.gov.uk

Employees' Secretary, Matt Wrack
Bradley House, 68 Coombe Rd
Kingston upon Thames KT2 7AE
Telephone 020 8541 1765

**NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL
FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

**To: Chief Fire Officers
Chief Executives/Clerks to Fire Authorities
Chairs of Fire Authorities
Directors of Human Resources at Fire Authorities**

Members of the National Joint Council

29 February 2012

CIRCULAR NJC/2/12

Dear Sir/Madam

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

1. Authorities will be aware that in order to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, an official medal will be awarded by the UK Government to those in the Armed Forces and emergency services, and to prison service personnel.
2. The eligibility criteria includes 'emergency services personnel who have been in paid service, retained or in a voluntary capacity, who have to face the prospect of dealing with emergencies as part of their conditions of service, and have completed five full calendar years of service on 6 February 2012'.
3. Disappointingly, it appears that fire control employees are not to be regarded as falling within this criterion.
4. The National Joint Council has written to the Fire Minister in England expressing concern as we have been advised DCLG is the relevant department on this issue. It is hoped that he will take this matter forward. A copy of the letter is attached for information.

Yours faithfully
**SARAH MESSENGER
MATT WRACK**

Joint Secretaries

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e-mail: firequeries@lge.gov.uk

Employees' Secretary, Matt Wrack
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NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Bob Neill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

20 February 2012

Dear Minister,

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL

We are writing on behalf of the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services in respect of the applied eligibility criteria for the awarding of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Both sides of the Council, employers and employees, unanimously agreed at a meeting held on 2nd February 2012, that members of the Fire and Rescue Service working in emergency fire controls should qualify for this medal.

We are aware that currently only those personnel who are called to attend emergencies, potentially placing themselves in danger and with at least 5 year's service fall within the criteria being applied to emergency service workers.

Employees working in Fire Control (e.g. Firefighters [Control], which is the agreed term for the role) can be required to, and do, attend emergencies potentially placing themselves in danger. There are many examples of such incidents, including those at the Buncefield Oil Storage Depot, Stockline Plastics in Glasgow, and Atherstone-on-Stour in Warwickshire. They also play an essential role dealing with emergency calls from the public who may be in immediate danger. This includes dispensing advice to members of the public who are often very distressed. This forms an important part of incident handling and in itself can and does save lives. This can apply equally to other fire control roles.

All Fire (Control) staff are a valued and vital part of our emergency response capabilities, and as such, we feel strongly that this group of employees should not be excluded and should be recognised in this process for their highly skilled dedication and commitment to protecting our communities.

We believe, that properly considered, the existing criteria already cover this group of employees and ask that this is made clear to those recommending members of staff for the medal. However, if it is felt that the criteria would need to be amended to take account of this point we ask that this is done.

Yours faithfully

SARAH MESSENGER

MATT WRACK

Joint Secretaries