

When the Service are holding public consultation events, can the Watch attend it, assuming this is feasible, eg. Deeside could attend theirs as it is close.	Staff are welcome to attend the public events whilst not on duty.
<p>There are numerous locations which are being used for public consultation where the travel distances involved for people are excessive. For example;</p> <p>Cerrig population being required to travel to Llandudno;</p> <p>Abersoch population being expected to travel to Dolgellau;</p> <p>Rhyl population expected to travel to Ruthin;</p> <p>Llanberis population required to travel to Bangor;</p> <p>Beaumaris population expected to travel to Llangefni.</p> <p>It is felt that for such an important issue as losing a fire station, a community asset, or the downgrading of wholetime cover, that events should be held within each affected town/city. By not holding events in each town, those people who cannot afford to travel on public transport will not attend. Those people who are less mobile will not attend and those people who have care responsibilities (children or elderly) are less likely to attend due to the extended period of time required to attend due to travel.</p>	<p>This is something that we have discussed internally and I am hopeful that we can address these concerns and ensure that public meetings are held closer to those stations mentioned in the consultation document.</p> <p><a href="#">Consultation underway: Your fire and rescue service – right place, right time, right skills - News - North Wales Fire And Rescue Service (gov.wales)</a></p>
Can stations host their own public meeting/consultation?	Individual stations or watches may wish to host their own events although these should be held in locations other than Service premises. I'm unsure what is meant by a separate station consultation.
A recurring and urgent theme is whether Fire Authority members can attend on station without the need to be accompanied by member of management.	It wasn't clear from the query whether this is watch/station initiated attendances or Fire Authority Member led visits. I hope that the information below clarifies:

	<p><b>FA Member initiated</b> – if a FA Member wishes to visit a station they should be asked to contact the Executive Assistants who will be able to assist them. We would recommend a mutually convenient time that minimises the impact on operational activities and training and they should be accompanied by a local manager. Due to diary commitments POs will not be in attendance.</p> <p><b>Station/watch initiated visits.</b> Contact can be made directly with FA Members by individual watches or stations and should a visit be mutually agreeable then this should be facilitated through the Executive Assistants as above.</p>						
Can other political reps visit stations? Can we please be provided with the etiquette.	Should stations or watches wish to meet with other political representatives then it is advised that this should be co-ordinated away from Service locations and during employees' own time.						
Some RDS stations have suggested that a 2nd visit from PO's might be worthwhile. This is because they now have further questions to raise. Perhaps a call to ask if they wish to have a second PO visit might allay needless 2nd visits to other stations who don't wish to have one.	I believe that all Stations visited received confirmation that further PO visits could be accommodated if this was required. They can either ask their Station Support Officer to co-ordinate this or can contact the Executive Assistants who will be happy to assist.						
Numerous questions requesting the current pay scales of the PO team and specifically the CFO. The last reported salary was listed in the Exec Panel as £138k (approx July '21). Could we have a current figure including enhancements please.	<p>The table below has been updated for the Jan 2022 and Jan 2023 pay awards</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Post</th><th>Salary</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CFO*</td><td>£150,222</td></tr> <tr> <td>DCFO*</td><td>£120,178</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Post	Salary	CFO*	£150,222	DCFO*	£120,178
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CFO*	£150,222						
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	<div>ACFO*    £112,667</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>includes remuneration for continuous duty arrangements</li> </ul>
Concerns raised as to why the terminology of the Wrexham appliance which is facing the axe. Staff feel mistrust in the use of the words '3rd appliance,' when it is actually the second. Staff feel this is to achieve a narrative that Wrexham has an excessive amount of fire engines, or 3 wholetime crews. It is felt that wording like this misrepresents the truth.	The terminology reflects that Wrexham currently has three pumps and, if option 2 or 3 is progressed, this will leave two pumps. This matter was given considerable thought during the drafting of the consultation document and it was felt that referring to the removal of Wrexham's 2 <sup>nd</sup> pump would leave the general perception by members of the public that Wrexham would only have a single pump left available.
There are inaccuracies relating to the pay settlement within the Consultation pack. To suggest that the 23/24 pay settlement was above planning assumptions is not correct. In the Exec Panel meeting Dec '22, it is clearly stated that the planning assumption for 23/24 is 5%. This is downgraded to 4% in the February '23 meeting and after the pay award is offered.	<p>The original planning assessment for 2023/24 was contained within the Medium Term Financial Plans presented in December 2020 &amp; December 2021. I would also refer to the budget setting paper that was presented to members in October 2022 which confirms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The initial planning assessment presented to members in December 2021 assumed national pay awards of 2%. This assessment is no longer valid and significant provision is required to address 2022/23 pay awards (not yet finalised) and 2023/24 awards.</li> </ul> <p>It was, therefore, necessary to make further provision within the budget setting process for 2023/24. The pay</p>

award which was initially included in the December 2022 budget paper at 5%. This was not accepted by Members and was reduced to 4% when the budget was approved by Members at its meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023. At this time the pay award had not been agreed for either 2022/23 or 2023/24 although it was noted as a risk.

The wording from the report is set out below:

**Planning assumptions**

- The initial planning assessment presented to members in December 2021 assumed national pay awards of 2%. This assessment is no longer valid and significant provision is required to address 2022/23 pay awards (not yet finalised for firefighters) and 2023/24 awards. The budget proposals assume that the firefighter pay dispute for 2022/23 is settled at 5%. A provisional estimate of 4% for 2023/24 has also been included.

**Risks and uncertainties**

- The pay awards for 2023/24 have not yet been finalised and the current planning assumption includes an increase of 4%. This is an area of uncertainty and risk. In the event that costs exceed the planning assumption then a supplemental levy may be required.

The budget was approved by Members in January 2023.

How much has the consultation cost to date? ORH/Consultation Institution and now the company employed (if different) to analyse the returning data from the consultation document/responses?	It is not clear of the relevance of this question?
Why does the consultation document limit the user to 250 characters commenting space?	This is a standard approach although this limit can be exceeded by either completing the consultation document in paper format or alternatively emailing your response to the consultation mailbox which has been set up.
The consultation document has been crashing frequently, leaving users unable to complete it.	We have been unable to replicate this fault and to date have received in excess of 400 responses. Anyone experiencing issues can contact the Service for advice.
he consultation document after a certain question, is returning to the beginning, repeatedly. Unique reference numbers are not being recognised meaning individuals are having to start all over again.	As above
Ref the 3 additional hub stations. How are the Service 'facilitating' the issue of 3 new appliances in addition to remaining RDS appliance? It is stated by DCFO on a station visit that these will be new appliances, which we are informed cost £248k each.[]	Provision will be made to ensure that RDS staff at the potential new day staff stations will be able to attend incidents. It is not possible to state at this current time the exact vehicle that will be available.
If; Option 1 leads to households receiving a 1st appliance within 20 minutes by 92.7%, Option 2 is increased to 92.2% and Option 3 decreases it to 91.5%, what is the current statistic?	Option 1 will increase the number of residential dwellings that receive a response within 20 mins by 2,148 and option 2 will increase this by 321 properties against the current percentage of 92.1%. The actual percentage of a first response time within 20 mins for all incidents is 93.6% (using a 5 year average).
Could you supply a costing for 1 additional rural station please.	Please can you clarify what is meant by a rural station.