

Mr S. Excell
Lead Commissioner: Strategic Infrastructure
Gloucestershire County Council
1st Floor
Block 5,
Shire Hall,
Westgate Street,
Gloucester
GL1 2TH

22nd October 2019

Dear Simon,

D&S IFCA response to 'Senior Officer Statement' by GCC (March 2019)

I am writing to respond further to the 'Senior Officer Statement' by Gloucester County Council (GCC), dated March 2019. However, before dealing with the substance of the Statement I would like to convey both my apologies for the delay in responding and my appreciation of both your forbearance in the matter and that of your elected members. I can assure you that it is personally much appreciated.

Originally, my predecessor as Chair of Devon & Severn IFCA (D&S IFCA), Ms. Elaine Hayes, had responded orally to the statement in the meeting of the Authority's Finance & General Purpose Sub Committee's (F&GP) meeting on 14th March 2019. My understanding was that Ms. Hayes had thus considered the matter closed and as then a Vice Chair of the Authority I had also done so.

At the Authority's June meeting you requested a written response, which I undertook to provide. Unfortunately, I was then overtaken by the somewhat unprecedented events which I outlined in the September meeting. These matters are still continuing and are consuming extremely large amounts of the time available to me to deal with Authority matters as Chair, hence the further delay.

Please find attached a detailed response to the substance of the GCC statement. I have, for your and your members' convenience, attached in Annex 'A' the relevant part of the Minutes of the Authority's Finance & General Purpose Sub Committee's (F&GP) meeting on 14th March 2019 in order that you can see Ms. Hayes' comments and the account of the F&GP's deliberations.

Please read this written response in the context of this extract from those Minutes and pending the outcome of the imminent review of the current funding model for D&S IFCA by DEFRA.

In the interim, I would request that GCC reflects upon this matter and in particular upon the wisdom of its continued retention of New Burdens monies and whether the public interest is best served in so doing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr Williams." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. M.V.Williams

Chair

Devon & Severn IFCA