



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

**Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service**  
Five Rivers Health & Wellbeing Centre,  
Hulse Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3NR

Simon Hoare MP  
Member of Parliament for North Dorset

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By email only to: [simon.hoare.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:simon.hoare.mp@parliament.uk)

Date: 09 April 2026

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your letter regarding the public consultation process currently being undertaken by Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority regarding the proposal to close eight fire stations.

In response to your first point, I can confirm that in anticipation of financial deficits forecast from 26/27 onwards, the Authority instructed the Chief Fire Officer to present ways in which savings could be made to ensure a balanced budget. This came after a programme of work under the Chiefs delegation to deliver changes to achieve efficiencies which also included some investment in priority operational areas.

Proposals for station closures is a decision for the Authority and a matter for public consultation. The consultation is not a referendum and is not intended to suggest there is no risk associated with the proposals. Its purpose is to allow the public to comment on whether the evidence is incomplete, risks have been underestimated, mitigations are inadequate, or viable alternatives have not been fully explored. While public opposition to closures is expected, all feedback will be considered before a decision is made.

If all eight stations are closed, the immediate budget deficit would be addressed, but an ongoing efficiency programme would still be required to ensure long-term sustainability.

If some or none of the stations are closed, further savings would need to be found elsewhere, potentially involving options that carry greater risk than those identified through the fire cover review and data analysis.

The consultation process is being run by an independent external company and the approach has been validated by the Authority's Monitoring Officer for compliance with the Gunning principles. Fire and Rescue Service officers are supporting logistics and providing technical data to ensure these events are as meaningful as possible. Consultation events are chaired by an Authority member, with the external company managing questions and compiling feedback into an independent report. This report will be presented to the Fire Authority at its decision-making meeting in June, with officers providing clarification on operational matters if required.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clare Weight'.

**Councillor Clare Weight**  
Chair, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority

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Councillor Clare Weight, Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority