

Prue Purdey

From: Kieran Black [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2017 2:57 PM
To: LCSC
Subject: To be heard in upcoming committee meeting.

Hello,

My name is Kieran Black and I am a Qualified Firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and I have been since August 2013.

As a relatively new employee of the Fire Brigade, the decision to meld the Fire Services will affect me more than most, since I am only just beginning my career. Since I have been a professional firefighter, I have served at several 'border stations', where we regularly interact with the CFA Professional and volunteer Firefighters. Some of these stations include, Templestowe, Clayton and Vermont South.

While I have always found the CFA Professional Firefighters to be highly Professional and cooperative, I have also found that the incompatibility between our agencies has been great cause for concern. To name a few that immediately come to mind.

- Communication issues that arise from us using different radios and operators.
- Technical issues arising from unfamiliarity with the wide array of different equipment and appliances we use.
- A lack of understanding of the relationship and management of volunteer Firefighters.
- Ostensible attempts from Volunteer Firefighters to undermine the practices of Professional Firefighters.
- Confusion in the chain of command between the two agencies.
- Differences in training and operational procedures.

In my professional opinion it makes no sense whatsoever to have two different agencies with two different professional Fire Services in one state. In the interests of efficiency and public and personnel safety, I think it would be dangerously neglectful to not fix the system into one professional agency; because as it stands, you would be hard pressed to find operational personnel who believe it to be anything other than broken. It is only by pure luck that this broken system has not resulted in a catastrophe, and it is only a matter of time if something is not done to improve the Fire Services.

I believe it is clear, that the best and only option is to combine the professional Fire Services as has been suggested by those who understand the cost of delaying or drrailing this much needed improvement to the Fire Brigades and emergency management as a whole.

Thank you for your time,

Qualified Firefighter Kieran Black,
Eastern Hill-1A
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