



14 OCT 2019

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs Penny O'Hagan  
Wem Town Council  
Edinburgh House  
New Street  
Wem  
SY4 5DB

8<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Thank you for your letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> October regarding the merger of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service with West Mercia Police. There was public consultation on these plans over a 13-week period between 12<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and no constituents raised any concerns with me at that time.

The merger was approved by the then Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, in 2018. The Home Secretary was satisfied that the proposal demonstrated that a transfer of governance would be in the interests of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and would not have an adverse effect upon public safety.

This decision was then subject to a judicial review which was concluded in July this year and found that the Home Secretary acted correctly.

John Champion has since reaffirmed his commitment to maximise the benefits of the merger. He is confident that joint governance can help deliver more effective and efficient services to the public, creating safer, happier and more prosperous communities.

I do not believe that it is possible to oppose the merger at this late stage; I propose following developments closely to ensure that the promises made by the Commissioner are fulfilled.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP**

RT HON OWEN PATERSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs Penny O'Hagan  
Wem Town Council  
Edinburgh House  
New Street  
Wem  
SY4 5DB

18<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Mrs O'Hagan,

I am writing further to my letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> October, regarding the merger of West Mercia Police and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service. I had a meeting today with West Mercia Police, who confirmed that the decision on the merger is still subject to two further recent judicial reviews. I was unaware of this information until this afternoon and thought that I ought to let you know so that you are aware of the current situation. I await the outcome of the latest actions with interest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Paterson', written in a cursive style.

**The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP**

Approved in person and signed electronically to avoid delay