



**Breviate of Meeting of Special Committee on Fire/Ambulance Services and
Emergency Management
Held on 26th January 2017
In OBI, Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre, Marino**

1. Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th September 2016.

Acknowledged visit to Kilbarrack. Another visit to be organised before Easter to a south side station.

Section 26 still been drawn up and will be circulated in the next few weeks.

Minutes agreed

2. Presentation by the Expert panel

Stephen Brady, Eugene McMahon, Matt Twomey, Dr. Niamh Collins and Bevin Herbert (Administrator)

Stephen Brady as Chair presented to the Committee the background of the establishment of the Ambulance Forum and the Expert Panel and an overview of its remit. Details of the following were presented:

- **Statutory Authority and Parity**
- **Funding**
- **Corporate Governance**
- **Clinical Governance**
- **Call taking and dispatch**

The panel responded to questions at the end of the presentation including queries regarding:

- **The management of emergency medical calls within Dublin City/County** - any emergency call within Dublin City/County is taken by the DFB call and dispatch service in Tara St. All DFB firefighters are trained paramedics or advanced paramedics and provide full support to DFB EMS ambulances.
- **the clinical effectiveness & efficiency of the DFB EMS** - the service is highly effective and efficient in all aspects from call and dispatch to delivering the patient to the A&E
- **the financial efficiency of the DFB EMS** - the service provides the most effective value for money possible with an above average unit hour utilisation

- **the interaction of DFB EMS with the NAS** - interaction between both services is positive with each supporting the other depending on resource availability
- **the capacity of the DFB EMS** - there are insufficient ambulances to meet current incidents
- **the status of the report** - all elements of the report except call and dispatch were agreed

Following the questions and answers session the Chair asked why Senior Management had finalised its participation on the DCC and DFB Management/Trade Union Ambulance Forum before the presentation and discussion of the technical expert report on the ability of the DFB EMS call and dispatch to communicate effectively and safely to the NAS call centre in Tallaght and subsequently agreed on the best way to proceed to achieving effective call taking interaction.

Brendan Kenny explained that the Forum was established in March 2015 and had met on 19 occasions. Agreement was not reached on DCC Management's proposal to centralise the call- taking and dispatching operation of the emergency ambulance service in Dublin. This issue was the main reason the Forum was set up and he said nothing further could be achieved by having anymore such meetings but would submit a written response to the technical group report.

The Committee requested that Management re-engage with the Forum, so as to discuss the technical report on how both systems can communicate effectively and to reach an agreement with the other members of the Forum on the most appropriate technical way forward. However, Brendan Kenny indicated that Management would not re-engage. The Chair asked for a written report on the reason for not re-engaging.

3. The Motion referred from City Council meeting held on the 9th January 2017

"That the Members of Dublin City Council acknowledge and commend the effective, integrated, co-ordinated and vital emergency fire and medical service provided by Dublin Fire Brigade to the citizens of Dublin City and the greater Dublin area. The emergency ambulance service in Dublin is a Fire Based Emergency Medical Services (EMS) model which is a unique public safety model reflective of best practice internationally in urban areas and is provided in accordance with Section 25 of the 1981 Fire Services Act. However, the Members note, with concern, that Dublin Fire Brigade Ambulance service is currently operating over capacity, resulting in an unacceptable increase in patient waiting time, and therefore call on DCC management to make an urgent request to the Minister of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government/Minister for Health to immediately make funding available for 4 additional fully crewed ambulances to the service, being the minimum number of ambulances needed to meet current and projected short term demand. The Members also recognise the

report of the Expert Panel Report on Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Services Dublin published in December 2015 as an agreed solution to address the recommendations made by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) report into Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Services published in December 2014. However, the Members note, with concern, the suggestion that the Dublin Fire Brigade call and dispatch service based in Tara Street Station would be transferred or amalgamated with the NAS call and dispatch service in Tallaght (not a recommendation of either the 2014 HIQA Report or the Expert Panel Report). In light of the foregoing, the Members, through this motion, instruct Dublin City Council management a) to bring any proposal or joint proposal to the attention of the other Dublin local authorities and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly as required under Sections 32(2) and 32(3) of the Local Government (Dublin) Act 1993 as the exercise of any change will have a material effect on the metropolitan interest and b) not to agree to any change in the current DFB EMS system of operations unless and until a full consultation with Dublin Fire Brigade and its employee representatives, the DCC Special Committee on Fire/Ambulance and Emergency Management and all members be held and that any changes suggested be subject to agreement of the members of this Council”.

The motion was agreed.

- It was suggested that the technical experts/group (Sub Group of the Forum) should give a presentation to a future meeting and that all submissions made to the Expert Panel be circulated.
- It was suggested that HIQA should present to the Committee on their report.
- The Expert Panel Report was fully endorsed by the Committee.
- Management were asked to seek meetings for the Committee with the Minister for Health and the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.
- The Chair indicated that she would also seek a meeting with the Minister for Health on the Committee’s behalf
- Brendan Kenny indicated that any additional ambulances for Dublin would not necessarily be made available to DFB EMS.

4. Section 26

A verbal report given by the Chief Fire Officer - an overview of Section 26 would be circulated

5. Any other business

Dublin Airport Fire Service to be requested to give a presentation to a future meeting.

Next meeting to be held in 3 to 4 weeks

Councillor Allison Gilliland
Chairperson,

30th January 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Special Committee Members:

Cllr Alison Gilliland (Chair)
Cllr Noeleen Reilly
Cllr Nial Ring
Cllr Christy Burke
Cllr Paul Hand
Cllr Brendan Carr, Lord Mayor
Cllr John Lyons
Cllr Patrick Costello
Cllr Eilis Ryan
Cllr Criona Ní Dhálaigh
Cllr Tom Brabazon

APOLOGIES:

Dr Caroline McMullan, Cllr Ray McHugh

Dublin City Council Staff:

Brendan Kenny, Assistant CEO
Patrick Fleming, Chief Fire Officer
Brendan Hayden, SEO
Rosa Vickers, Secretary

Expert Panel

Stephen Brady, Eugene McMahon, Matt Twomey, Dr Niamh Collins and Bevin Herbert (Administrator)