



ASLEF's Response to the Reform of fire service decision making in London Consultation

1. The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) is the UK's largest train driver's union representing more than 20,000 members in train operating companies and freight companies as well as London Underground and light rail systems.
2. ASLEF is highly concerned about the mayor's plans to reduce the representation of Assembly Members and London Borough Councillors on the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and increase the amount of Mayoral appointees. The union can see no possible reason for this other than a power grab by the London major and an attempt reduce the democratic scope of the authority.
3. One of the reasons given by the mayor is that it will improve democratic accountability. How is this possibly the case when the number of people on the body who are elected by all Londoners is reduced by 4 and replaced by 4 people nominated by one man, the mayor?
4. This is an attempt to reduce opposition voice at time when he is looking to further attack the budget of London's fire services.
5. The mayor has different views to the majority of those on the authority about what should happen about the closed fire stations in London. Rather than debate this issue, he is looking to gerrymander the very body that holds him to account to push this through. It is laughable to say that this is being done in the name of democracy.

6. This move is dangerous and undemocratic and will give rise to poor governance. It runs counter to the 'local government' constitution that the fire authority currently has, with most members being appointed on the basis of election results in London.

7. ASLEF therefore oppose this proposal in the strongest possible terms.