

Justice Committee**Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2016-17****Supplementary written submission from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Further to the Justice Committee session on 1 December 2015 at which the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) gave evidence in relation to the 2016/17 Draft Budget, I write to provide further details in support of a question raised by a member of the Committee, Alison McInnes MSP.

Ms McInnes asked the value of abortive costs that had been incurred by the Service as a result of the process undertaken to reach a decision on the location of the SFRS Headquarters.

In October 2014 the Scottish Government published a set of criteria that the SFRS was required to adhere to in selecting a Headquarters location. Item 5 stated:

“In terms of securing the proper use of public money, Ministers require the SFRS board to approach the selection of an HQ location in the same manner as any other investment decision, with a clear assessment of costs and benefits carried out in line with HMT Green Book guidance.”

As such SFRS utilised Hub East Central Scotland to secure the services of Deloitte Real Estate and Keppie Design who worked with our project team to develop the required business case, options appraisal and first stage design. The total cost for these services was £96,271 (including VAT).

When a further options appraisal became necessary the same approach was adopted using internal resources.

I trust that this information is sufficient for your purposes but would be happy to provide further detail if required.

Sarah O'Donnell
Director of Finance & Contractual Services
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
3 December 2015