

# **THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION**

MEDIA RELEASE: Immediate release 1 July 2010

## **Firefighters' union condemns broken government pledge on regional control centres**

The Fire Brigades Union today condemned the decision to renege on the pledge made by both coalition partners that they would scrap the previous government's plan to create nine big regional control centres.

Fire Minister Bob Neill announced yesterday that the government would honour the contracts to companies. It means replacing the present 46 control centres with nine big centres, operating new, complicated and untried technology.

"This is a massively expensive way of making Britain less safe, and a shameless abandonment of a clear pledge given before the election by both governing parties" FBU general secretary Matt Wrack said today.

"Firefighters will be very angry about reports that the government will honour the contracts for the FiReControl project.

"A manifesto pledge appears to have been dropped at the first opportunity.

"This project already costs many times the original estimate. We expect costs will continue to rise and other problems will inevitably occur with this flawed project."

"As the Fire Minister himself rightly said: 'This project has been a catalogue of delays, poor delivery and added costs.'"

Contact      Francis Beckett      020 8349 9194