

## CONTROLS CAMPAIGN

# Regional control rooms: What are my choices?

SO ... The Government wants to reduce the 49 brigade control rooms to nine regional ones in the next few years ...  
... why?

Nowhere in the regionalisation proposals is there any mention of an improved service to the public or safer working practices for our fire fighters.

We are already the best performing public service so why do they want to change it all?

No doubt we are all asking the same questions, even though we know the answers: SAVING MONEY and REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

If these nine regional controls go ahead I have two options:

Stay in the job or leave

## STAY IN THE JOB:

- I'll have to move hundreds of miles to a new Control Room.
- I'll have to leave my family
- I'll have to leave my friends
- My children will have to be taken out of school and leave all their friends
- I'll have to find a new NHS Dentist!
- Sell my home and find a new one
- Fight amongst the other control staff for a job, they can't employ us all after all
- My partner will have to find a new job

## LEAVE THE JOB:

- What am I qualified to do? ... I have no transferable skills. In fact I'd struggle to get an interview for a clerical assistant in another workplace.
- My redundancy package will probably

be the basic county council package which is one week's pay for every year worked up to a maximum of 10 years. Work that out and it comes to about £9,000.

- After 15 years being institutionalised I will have to get my head around this new way of life ... temporary

“ The Government's proposal for massive job losses in Emergency Fire Control is in direct conflict with their call for greater equality in the Fire Service. To take a position which on the one hand calls for more women working within the service and then on the other hand to attempt to force the removal of hundreds of jobs which are mainly women workers is contradictory, nonsensical and malicious. ”

*Kerry Baigent*  
NWC Secretary



Stats

Officers' rotas and leave records

BA repair requests

Fire safety advice

Crew Deficiencies

They say these new control rooms are going to be terrorist proof, with security check points, reinforced building materials etc.

I've never been a terrorist target ... but I will be!

... And meanwhile what's happening to me while I make the biggest decision of my life?

## AT WORK

- No promotions prospects
- Low moral
- No motivation
- Doom and gloom
- Staff leaving
- Emotional blackmail
- Working at minimum levels
- Increased stress
- Increased sickness

## AT HOME

- Unsettled future
- Sleepless nights
- Family tension

Which choice would you make?

After investing so much training in me I still can't quite believe that I'm going to be thrown on the scrap heap.

Oh well ... Never say never, chin up and all that, eh?

**An Emergency Fire Control Operator**

■ For more information about the campaign against regional control rooms and what you can do to help the campaign please visit [www.controlcare.org.uk](http://www.controlcare.org.uk)

contracts,  
no pensions, always being the newbie in the office etc ...

- My partner will have to find a better paid job

Well ... That's the personal dilemma covered. But what about the valuable work I do? The contributions I make to the Fire Service?

- Fire calls are only a small percentage of my job
- Who will be left to do:
  - Fire Reports
  - Accident reports
  - Vehicle defects
  - Near Misses
  - Crewing levels