

24/08/2015

Ms Jane Garrett

Minister for Emergency Services

Dear MsGarrett and fellow review committee,

I have never submitted anything like this before so please forgive me for my lack of professionalism or incorrect phrasing.

I am a volunteer firefighter (5 years) with the small brigade of Longford.

We are a rapidly growing community of rural/residentail and a decrease of farmers. The dilemma we face is that of a lack of volunteers. The reasons from community members for not joining is that they do not work in Longford and cannot turn out or they are too busy. I am a mother of two primary school children, on the parents club of the school, on the Fair committee of the school, on a local committee for the Good Friday Family Fun day and I work part time. I am too busy too but find the time.

It is a mostly thankless job and a vast majority of Sea/Tree changers do not realise is voluntary.

My proposal is to simply reward the volunteers. This could be easily done by wavering the Fire Levy from the rates of any volunteers. It is not much but we are the ones on the front line battling the flames and saving properties when our own could be in danger.

Perhaps this small reward my entice more volunteers.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity for a say.

Kind Regards

*Cheryl Walker*

Volunteer Firefighter

Training Officer

Longford Fire Brigade