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» Letters

Residents' safety not compromised

» Fire cuts

In the light of the mayor's recent direction to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, I understand that the residents of Islington will be unsettled by the closure of Clerkenwell fire station.

I'd like to reassure local people that fire engines from Holloway, Islington, Kentish Town and Shoreditch fire stations will all still be available to quickly attend, fight and prevent fires in the area, drawing from the 155 fire engines that will remain to cover the capital.

The safety of Londoners is our top priority and these measures ensure that more boroughs across London are brought within the brigade's target response times.

I trust the professional judgement of the fire commissioner, a firefighter with over 20 years of experience. Fire authorities across the UK are seeing reductions in government grant and are expected to make front line savings, so it is right and necessary that we make these changes, to ensure the London's fire service is financially stable and we can avoid having to look into compulsory redundancies.

James Cleverly
Chairman, London Fire
and Emergency Planning
Authority