

Consultation: Internal Communications for Staff

	Date	Audience	What	Detail
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE				
JULY	Mon 14 Jul 14	Staff	Internal comms	Weekly Bulletin Issue 28 - confirming consultation will take place
	Mon 28 Jul 14	Staff	Internal comms	Weekly Bulletin Issue 30 - reminder about consultation now live & how to take part
AUGUST	Fri 08 Aug 14	Staff	Internal comms	QM Issue 79 - signpost to taking part in consultation. Also on our website
	Mon 25 Aug 14	Staff	Internal comms	Weekly Bulletin Issue 34 - dates of staff briefings, reminder to take part in consultation
SEPTEMBER	Mon 01 Sep 14	Staff	Internal comms	Weekly Bulletin Issue 35 - dates of staff briefings, reminder to take part in consultation
	Fri 05 Sep 14	Staff	Internal comms	QM Issue 80 - consultation reminder. Also on our website
	Mon 15 Sep 14	Staff	Internal comms	Weekly Bulletin Issue 37 - dates of staff briefings, reminder to take part in consultation
	Mon 22 Sep 14	Staff	Internal comms	Weekly Bulletin Issue 38 - briefing dates and reminder to take part in consultation
	Fri 26 Sep 14	Staff	Internal comms	Consultation reminder in payslip
	Mon 29 Sep 14	Staff	Internal comms	Weekly Bulletin Issue 39 - briefing dates and reminder to take part in consultation
OCTOBER	Mon 06 Oct 14	Staff	Internal comms	Weekly Bulletin Issue 40 - briefing dates and reminder to take part in consultation
	Mon 13 Oct 14	Staff	Internal comms	Weekly Bulletin Issue 41 - reminder to take part in consultation
	Mon 20 Oct 14	Staff	Internal comms	Weekly Bulletin Issue 42 Transformation bid success, next steps following end of consultation
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE				

Internal Communications: Representative Bodies

	Date	Service	Audience	What	Detail	Where
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE						
AUGUST	Tue 05 Aug 14	Joint	Rep Bodies	Briefing	Unison, RFU, FOA	Gillingham Fire Station
	Thu 14 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Rep Bodies	Meeting	General meeting FBU	Wiltshire FRS HQ
	Tue 26 Aug 14	Joint	Rep Bodies	Meeting	Discussion with Joint Leadership Team	Mere Fire Station
SEPTEMBER	Thu 11 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Rep Bodies	Telephone conversation	Courtesy call to local FBU rep	
	Mon 22 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Rep Bodies	Meeting	FBU, Tam MacFarlane	Wiltshire FRS HQ
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE						

Internal Communications: Staff Briefings

	Date	Audience	Where
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE			
SEPTEMBER	Mon 01 Sep 14	All staff	TDC, Devizes
	Mon 01 Sep 14	Trowbridge G1	Trowbridge Fire Station
	Mon 01 Sep 14	All staff, Swindon & Stratton (Blue), Westlea G1	Swindon Fire Station
	Mon 01 Sep 14	Chippenham & Calne RDS	Chippenham Fire Station
	Mon 01 Sep 14	Salisbury WT (Red) & Pewsey RDS	Salisbury Fire Station
	Tue 02 Sep 14	Corporate staff briefing	Trowbridge Fire Station
	Tue 02 Sep 14	Corporate staff briefing	Wiltshire FRS HQ
	Tue 02 Sep 14	All staff, Salisbury (Green)	Salisbury Fire Station
	Mon 08 Sep 14	Swindon & Stratton (Red & RDS)	Swindon
	Mon 08 Sep 14	Tisbury & Mere RDS	Mere Fire Station
	Tue 09 Sep 14	Salisbury (Blue)	Salisbury Fire Station
	Tue 09 Sep 14	Chippenham G2	Chippenham Fire Station
	Wed 10 Sep 14	Swindon & Stratton (Green), Westlea G2	Swindon Fire Station
	Wed 10 Sep 14	Swindon Green	Swindon Fire Station
	Wed 10 Sep 14	Corsham RDS	Corsham Fire Station
	Wed 10 Sep 14	Wilton, Amesbury & Ludgershall RDS	Amesbury Fire Station
	Wed 10 Sep 14	Change agents	TDC, Devizes
	Thu 11 Sep 14	Chippenham G1	Chippenham Fire Station
	Wed 17 Sep 14	Devizes RDS	Devizes Fire Station
	Mon 22 Sep 14	Control (Red)	Wiltshire FRS Control
	Mon 22 Sep 14	Trowbridge G2	Trowbridge Fire Station
	Mon 22 Sep 14	Melksham & Westbury RDS	Melksham Fire Station
	Mon 22 Sep 14	Warminster RDS	Warminster Fire Station
	Wed 24 Sep 14	Control (Blue)	Wiltshire Control
	Mon 29 Sep 14	Control (White)	Wiltshire FRS Control
	Mon 29 Sep 14	Salisbury (White)	Salisbury Fire Station
Mon 29 Sep 14	Swindon & Stratton (White)	Swindon Fire Station	
Mon 29 Sep 14	Cricklade, Malmesbury & Royal Wootton Bassett RDS	Royal Wootton Bassett Fire Station	
OCTOBER	Wed 01 Oct 14	Amesbury (WT)	Amesbury Fire Station
	Mon 06 Oct 14	Trowbridge & Bradford-on-Avon RDS	Trowbridge Fire Station
	Mon 06 Oct 14	Ramsbury & Marlborough RDS	Ramsbury Fire Station
	Mon 13 Oct 14	Control (Green)	Wiltshire FRS Control
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE			

External Communications – Local and National Political Groups

	Date	Service	Audience	What	Detail	Where
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE						
JULY	Fri 11 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Shadow Fire Minister (Lynn Brown)	Meeting	Briefing and discussion on financial issues and consultation options	Wiltshire FRS HQ
	Tue 29 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Local politicians	Meeting	Wiltshire Council meeting where CFA Chair gave a presentation & motion about the merger was tabled	County Hall, Trowbridge
AUGUST	Fri 08 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Key stakeholders	Letter	Invitation to take part in the consultation - MPs, councillors etc	
	Fri 08 Aug 14	Wiltshire	MPs	Letter	2nd letter to MPs constituency addresses	
	Tue 12 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Local councillors	Letter & leaflet pack	Consultation information	
	Wed 13 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Town & parish councillors	Letter	Invitation to attend cluster/locality meetings	
	Thu 14 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Local politicians	Meeting	Briefing and discussion on financial issues and consultation options with Liberal Democrats	County Hall, Trowbridge
SEPTEMBER	Thu 04 Sep 14	Joint	DCLG	Meeting	Discussion on the requirements for combination if one was approved	Home Office, London
	Wed 10 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Local politicians	Briefing	Discussion between CFO and Swindon Borough Council Cabinet and Council	
	Fri 12 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Local politicians	Letter	Leaflet pack sent to all 98 Wiltshire councillors (private addresses)	
	Fri 12 Sep 14	Wiltshire	MPs	e-mail	Invite to Westminster briefing 28 October	
	Wed 24 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Key stakeholders	Letter	Consultation reminder sent	
OCT	Tue 28 Oct 14	Joint	MPs	Briefing	Dorset, Wiltshire & Swindon MPs. Minister invited	Westminster
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE						

External Communications: Chief Executives and Senior Officers

	Date	Service	Audience	What	Detail	Where
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE						
JULY	Wed 23 Jul 14	Joint	Other Wiltshire Partners	Meeting	Meeting with WC, SBC, police to determine corporate partnership savings	County Hall, Trowbridge
	Fri 08 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Key stakeholders	Letter	Invitation to take part in the consultation	
AUGUST	Thu 14 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Constituency CEs & Senior Officers	Meeting	Discussion with Wiltshire Council on closer working	County Hall, Trowbridge
	Tue 19 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Constituency CEs & Senior Officers	Meeting	Meeting to discuss closer working with Wiltshire Council	
	Wed 20 Aug 14	Joint	Other Wiltshire Partners	Meeting	Meeting with WC, SBC, police to discuss corporate partnership savings	Corsham Fire Station
	Fri 22 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Other Wiltshire Partners	Meeting	Discussion with Police Superintendent - corporate services on possible opportunities for joint working	Wiltshire FRS HQ or Police HQ - to check
	Fri 05 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Other Wiltshire Partners	Meeting	NHS Foundation Trust, signposted the consultation	Great Western Hospital
SEPTEMBER	Wed 10 Sep 14	Joint	Other Wiltshire Partners	Meeting	Meeting with WC, SBC, police to discuss corporate partnership savings	Wiltshire FRS HQ
	Wed 17 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Council	Meeting	Discussion about involvement with WC campus work	County Hall, Trowbridge
	Wed 24 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Stakeholders various	Letter	Consultation reminder	
	Wed 24 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Other Wiltshire Partners	Meeting	Briefing on financial situation with Wiltshire Strategic Partnership Board	County Hall, Trowbridge
	Fri 26 Sep 14	Wiltshire	SBC	Meeting	Discussion on potential estates opportunities	SBC Offices
	Fri 03 Oct 14	Joint	Other Wiltshire Partners	Meeting	Discussion with WC, SBC, police on possible corporate partnership savings.	Wiltshire FRS HQ
OCTOBER	Tue 14 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Council	Meeting	General up-date with Senior Officers	County Hall, Trowbridge
	Wed 22 Oct 14	Joint	Other Wiltshire Partners	Meeting	Discussion with WC, SBC, police on corporate partnership savings.	Wiltshire FRS HQ
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE						

External Communication: Community Area Board and Locality Meetings

	Date	Audience	What	Detail	Where
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE					
JULY	Wed 23 Jul 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Cricklade & Royal Wootton Bassett - leaflet distribution	Cricklade Community Centre
	Wed 23 Jul 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	SW Wiltshire CAB - Leaflet distribution	Shaftesbury
	Thu 31 Jul 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Amesbury - Leaflet distribution	
SEPTEMBER	Tue 02 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Briefing	North Central Locality	Swindon Community Centre
	Mon 08 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Briefing	West Swindon Locality	The Link Centre Library, West Swindon
	Mon 08 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Chippenham CAB, leaflet distribution only	Chippenham
	Wed 10 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Malmesbury CAB, leaflet distribution only	Malmesbury
	Thu 11 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Warminster CAB, leaflet distribution only	Warminster
	Mon 15 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Pewsey CAB , leaflet distribution only	Pewsey
	Wed 17 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Bradford-on-Avon CAB presentation	Bradford-on-Avon Town Council
	Thu 18 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Trowbridge presentation	County Hall, Trowbridge
	Thu 18 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Salisbury CAB, leaflet distribution only	Salisbury
	Mon 22 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Briefing	Locality cluster	Arval, Swindon Business Park
	Mon 22 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Tidworth CAB, leaflet distribution only	Ludgershall
	Wed 24 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Cricklade & RWB CAB, leaflet distribution only	Royal Wootton Bassett
	Thu 25 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Corsham CAB, leaflet distribution only	Corsham
	Mon 29 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Devizes CAB, leaflet distribution only	Devizes
	Tue 30 Sep 14	CABs/Localities	Briefing		Marlborough

External Communication: Community Area Board and Locality Meetings (Continued)

	Date	Audience	What	Detail	Where
OCTOBER	Thu 02 Oct 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Amesbury CAB, leaflet distribution only	Fighelean
	Tue 07 Oct 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Calne CAB, leaflet distribution only	Calne
	Wed 08 Oct 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	SW Wiltshire CAB, leaflet distribution only	Tisbury
	Thu 09 Oct 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Westbury CAB, leaflet distribution only	Westbury
	Mon 13 Oct 14	CABs/Localities	Briefing	Briefing on financial situation and consultation options with CAB cluster - South Wilts	Michael Herbert Hall, Wilton
	Mon 13 Oct 14	CABs/Localities	Briefing	Briefing on financial situation and consultation options with CAB cluster - West Wilts	Civic Centre, Trowbridge
	Tue 14 Oct 14	CABs/Localities	Briefing	Briefing on financial situation and consultation options with CAB cluster - East Wilts	Assembly Room, Devizes
	Tue 14 Oct 14	CABs/Localities	Briefing	Briefing on financial situation and consultation options with CAB cluster - North Wilts	Town Hall, Chippenham
	Wed 15 Oct 14	CABs/Localities	Meeting	Melksham CAB, leaflet distribution only	Melksham
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE					

External Communication: Media

	Date	Audience	What	Detail
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE				
JUL	Thu 24 Jul 14	Media	Press release	Consultation starts into future of Fire & Rescue Service
SEP	Tue 09 Sep 14	Media	Press release	Consultation continues into future of Fire & Rescue Service
OCT	Mon 20 Oct 14	Media	Press release	Government funding support if merger goes ahead, consultation closing and next steps
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE				

External Consultation: Social Media

	Date	Audience	What	Detail
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE				
JULY	Thu 24 Jul 14	All	Social media	Facebook & Twitter -The consultation into the future of our Service is now underway - visit our website to have your say
	Sun 27 Jul 14	All	Social media	Twitter - @Wiltshire CFO - pointer to consultation
	Tue 29 Jul 14	All	Social media	Twitter - reminder to take part in consultation
AUG	Fri 08 Aug 14	All	Social media	Twitter - have your say
	Sun 17 Aug 14	All	Social media	Trowbridge Fire Station twitter reminder to have your say
SEPTEMBER	Tue 02 Sep 14	All	Social media	Twitter - reminder to take part in consultation
	Mon 08 Sep 14	All	Social media	Twitter - reminder to take part in consultation
	Wed 10 Sep 14	All	Social media	Facebook - consultation reminder
	Tue 23 Sep 14	All	Social media	Re-tweeted Dorset FRS plus Darran - reminders to take part in consultation
	Mon 29 Sep 14	All	Social media	Twitter - have your say
OCTOBER	Mon 06 Oct 14	All	Social media	Twitter – consultation reminder
	Tue 07 Oct 14	All	Social media	Facebook - consultation reminder
	Mon 13 Oct 14	All	Social media	Facebook and Twitter - consultation reminder
	Tue 21 Oct 14	All	Social media	Facebook and Twitter - consultation has ended
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE				

External Communication: Public

	Date	Audience	What	Detail	Where
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE					
AUG	Thu 14 Aug 14	Public	Leaflet packs	Distributed to fire stations, libraries and public buildings	
	Fri 22 Aug 14	Public	Leaflet packs	Distributed to fire stations, libraries and public buildings	
SEPTEMBER	Sun 07 Sep 14	Public	Leaflet packs	Distributed at Emergency Special Services Show	
	Wed 24 Sep 14	Public	Residents forum run by ORS	Salisbury	City Hall, Salisbury
	Thu 25 Sep 14	Public	Residents forum run by ORS	Warminster	Athenaeum Hall, Warminster
	Mon 29 Sep 14	Public	Residents forum run by ORS	Marlborough	Golf Club, Marlborough
	Tue 30 Sep 14	Public	Residents forum run by ORS	Westlea	Westlea Fire Station
	Wed 01 Oct 14	Public	Letter	Response to S Phillips query about consultation	
OCTOBER	Wed 01 Oct 14	Public	Other	Senior Wellbeing day - leaflet drop	
	Mon 06 Oct 14	Public	Other	Senior Wellbeing day - leaflet drop	
	Tue 07 Oct 14	Public	Other	Senior Wellbeing day - leaflet drop	
	Thu 09 Oct 14	Public	Residents forum run by ORS	Malmesbury	Town Hall, Malmesbury
	Mon 13 Oct 14	Public	Residents forum run by ORS	Chippenham	Town (Neeld Hall), Chippenham
	Tue 14 Oct 14	Public	Residents forum run by ORS	Trowbridge	Trowbridge Fire Station
	Wed 15 Oct 14	Public	Residents forum run by ORS	Devizes	Corn Exchange, Devizes
	20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE				

External Communication: Business and Voluntary Groups

	Date	Audience	What	Detail	Where
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE					
SEPTEMBER	Sep 2014	Business Community	Letter & follow up telephone call	ORS invite to take part in forum	
	Sep 2014	Voluntary Sector	Letter & follow up telephone call	ORS invite to take part in forum	
	Tue 16 Sep 14	Business Community	Letter	Reminder of Business Forum 30 Sep & new one 14 Oct	
	Fri 19 Sep 14	Business Community	e-mail	To TV Chamber of Commerce signposting Locality Event & Business Breakfast	
	Fri 19 Sep 14	Business Community	e-mail	To Business West signposting Locality Event & Business Breakfast	
	Thu 25 Sep 14	Voluntary Sector	Leaflet pack & flyers	Wiltshire VCS AGM	
	Tue 30 Sep 14	Business Community	Business forum run by ORS	Business breakfast, Swindon	Arval, Swindon Business Park
	Tue 30 Sep 14	Voluntary Sector	Voluntary sector forum run by ORS	Swindon	Arval, Swindon Business Park
OCTOBER	Tue 14 Oct 14	Business Community	Business forum run by ORS	Business Breakfast, Salisbury	City Hall, Salisbury
	Tue 14 Oct 14	Voluntary Sector	Voluntary sector forum run by ORS	Salisbury	City Hall, Salisbury
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE					

External Communication: Other Stakeholders

	Date	Service	Audience	What	Detail	Where
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE						
JULY	Thu 31 Jul 14	Joint	LRF	e-mail	Notification of start of consultation	
	Thu 07 Aug 14	Joint	FRS	e-mail	Notification of start of consultation	
AUGUST	Fri 08 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Key stakeholders	Letter	Invitation to take part in the consultation	
	Mon 11 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Other	Briefing	Briefing on financial situation and consultation options to Royal British Legion	Potterne Social Club
	Thu 14 Aug 14	Wiltshire	LRF	Meeting	Sign posting to consultation to Way of Working Group	TDC, Devizes
SEPTEMBER	Tue 23 Sep 14	Wiltshire	FRS	Meeting	Briefing to SW Chief and Chairs meeting	Holiday Express Taunton
	Wed 24 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Key stakeholders	Letter	Consultation reminder	
OCTOBER	Thu 02 Oct 14	Joint	Auditors	Meeting	Meeting with SW Audit and SBC to confirm financial elements of the business case	Gillingham Fire Station - tbc
	Thu 02 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Other	Meeting	WFRA Exec Committee (retired members) - leaflet distribution	
	Tue 14 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Other	Newsletter	Wiltshire Retired Firefighters Association - signposting consultation	
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE						

Appendix B

Media Interest

Date	Service	What	Media	Who	Detail or Title of Article/Letter	
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE						
JULY	Thu 03 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Joanne Moore	Councillor on verge of quitting over fire service merger row
	Thu 03 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Gazette & Herald	Press	Joanne Moore	Fire merger anger. Tory set to quit party over attempts to block Dorset move
	Thu 03 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Gazette & Herald	Press	Not given	Fire service is at a crossroads
	Thu 03 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press	Annie Riddle	Council 'empire builders' slammed over fire merger
	Fri 04 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Joanne Moore	I'll quit Tories over fire row' Councillor considers resigning over bid to halt services merger
	Fri 04 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	The Editor's View	Fire merger row demonstrates a need for public debate
	Mon 07 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Swindon Advertiser	Press	Joanne Moore	Sparks flying at fire merger
	Tue 08 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Western Daily Press	Press	Tristan Cork	Fiery clashes over brigade merger plans
	Tue 08 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Western Daily Press	Press	WDP opinion	Future of fire service is too important for political squabbling
	Tue 08 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Western Daily Press	Press - on-line	Tristan Cork	Arrogant' North Wiltshire Tory MP apologises to Tory Councillor Graham Payne
	Thu 10 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Gazette & Herald	Press	Article	Should County's fire service enter into a Dorset merger? Former Wiltshire Fire Authority Chairman and North Wiltshire MP James Gray argue for and against ground-breaking move
	Thu 10 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Gazette & Herald	Press	Letter Graham Payne	Amused by comment
	Thu 10 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press	Dr Andrew Murrison Con. MP for SW Wiltshire	Growth supports science park
	Thu 10 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire & Gloucestershire Standard	Press	Article	MP sorry for personal comments as fire service merger row rumbles on
	Thu 10 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press & press on-line	Letters section Cllr Bridget Wayman	Fire merger could bring complications
	Fri 11 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Article	Should County's fire service enter into a Dorset merger? Former Wiltshire Fire Authority Chairman and North Wiltshire MP James Gray argue for and against ground-breaking move
	Fri 11 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Dr Andrew Murrison Con. MP for SW Wiltshire	Who says we don't make things?
	Fri 11 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Letter Graham Payne	Well met, Mr Gray
	Mon 14 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Swindon Advertiser	Press	Letter Graham Payne	Amused by MP
	Thu 17 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Gazette & Herald	Press	Letters section Cllr Jeff Osborn	See obvious on merger
Thu 17 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Gazette & Herald	Press	Letters section Serving firefighter	Fire Service on Brink	
Thu 17 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press	Jeff Osborn, Independent Wiltshire councillor	Fire service future needs a clear sense of direction	
Thu 17 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press	Annie Riddle	Fire merger plans go to consultation	

Appendix B

Media Interest (continued)

	Date	Service	What	Media	Who	Detail or Title of Article/Letter
JULY	Fri 18 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Letters section Serving firefighter	Firefighters' view
	Fri 18 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Letters section Cllr Ernie Clark	Keep politics out of it
	Sat 19 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Swindon Advertiser	Press	Letters section Cllr Ernie Clark	Political hot potato
	Thu 24 Jul 14	Wiltshire	BBC Wiltshire breakfast show	Radio	Ben Prater	Radio interview - replay of previous interview with SRJ, plus interview with Chair Chris Devine and also FBU rep Brent Thorley
	Thu 24 Jul 14	National	BBC News England	Press - on-line		Wiltshire and Dorset fire service merger: Consultation begins
	Fri 25 Jul 14	Wiltshire	BBC Wiltshire breakfast show	Radio	Ben Prater	Radio interview with SRJ, 7:30
	Fri 25 Jul 14	Joint	BBC Local breakfast show	Radio		Radio interview with Chris Devine & then Rebecca Knox
	Fri 25 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Article	Fire service future
	Fri 25 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Article	New fire boss to speak amid merger 'row'
	Sun 27 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Gazette & Herald	Press	Article	Fire boss is at meeting
	Mon 28 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press - on-line	Annie Riddle	Chance to vote on fire merger plans - and possible huge cuts
	Tue 29 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Swindon Advertiser	Press	Article	Future of fire service considered
	Tue 29 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Twitter	Salisbury Journal @journalupdate	Chance to vote on merger plans
	Wed 30 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire & Gloucestershire Standard	Press	Comment	Comment about proposed merger
	AUGUST	Thu 31 Jul 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire & Gloucestershire Standard	Press	Tina Robins
Thu 31 Jul 14		Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press & press on-line	Annie Riddle	What's Richard III got to do with our fire service?
Fri 01 Aug 14		Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Andy Baber	No decision on fire merger yet
Sun 03 Aug 14		Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press - on-line		Have a say on Fire and Rescue Service merger
Tue 05 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Annie Riddle blog signpost	Twitter	Annie Riddle	Make sure you vote	
Wed 06 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Swindon Advertiser	Press & press on-line	Mike Benke	Have your say on fire merger	

Media Interest (continued)

	Date	Service	What	Media	Who	Detail or Title of Article/Letter
AUGUST	Thu 07 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press	Letters section Jeff Osborn, Independent Wiltshire councillor	Only one option makes sense for fire service
	Fri 08 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Letters section Jeff Osborn, Independent Wiltshire councillor	Stand up, speak out
	Fri 08 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Western Daily Press	Press	Letters section Jeff Osborn, Independent Wiltshire councillor	Council ducks the fire service issue
	Thu 14 Aug 14	Wiltshire	Gazette & Herald	Press	Letters section Jeff Osborn, Independent Wiltshire councillor	Merger is only way
SEPTEMBER	Wed 10 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Swindon Advertiser	Press	Article	More time for comments on fire service merger
	Thu 11 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire & Gloucestershire Standard	Press	Article	Merger debate
	Thu 11 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press	Richard P Cousens	Queries over questionnaire
	Fri 12 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Article	Fire chief to give talk at open area board meeting [in Trowbridge]
	Tue 23 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Swindon Advertiser	Press	Article	Fire merger plan the 'best option'
	Thu 25 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire & Gloucestershire Standard	Press	Article	Fire service merger
	Thu 25 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press	Article	Merger forum [voluntary sector 14 Oct]
OCTOBER	Thu 02 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire & Gloucestershire Standard	Press	Elliot Cass	Merger of the fire service a possibility
	Thu 02 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Gazette & Herald	Press	Katie Smith	Fire service merger gathering support
	Thu 02 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Gazette & Herald	Press	Letters section Dr Brian Mathew Lib Dem Prospective MP for N Wilts	Air fire merger views
	Thu 02 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Swindon Advertiser	Press	Letters section Dr Brian Mathew Liberal Democrat Prospective MP for N Wilts	Air fire merger views
	Thu 02 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Salisbury Journal	Press	Article	Fire service hold forum
	Fri 03 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Staff reporter	Former chairman 'delighted' but MP concerned
	Fri 03 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Times	Press	Letters section Dr Brian Mathew Lib Dem Prospective MP for N Wilts	Too much slanging

20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE

Written Submissions Received during the Consultation Period

	Date	Service	Who	What	Detail
21 JULY CONSULTATION START DATE					
AUGUST	15 Aug 14	Wiltshire	MP	J Gray letter to Chair	<p>Re-iterating opposition to amalgamation and enclosing letter sent out to CFO 16 December 2013 outlining his reasons including - Little commonality between Wiltshire and Dorset. Large part of constituency is as much as 100 miles away from Dorset. Wiltshire as a county more in common with Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Gloucestershire. Passionate opponent of regionalisation. Remains firmly committed to Wiltshire's being a satisfactory unit of Government both in terms of local Government and in terms of fire, health and police services. Not certain that the financial strategy where facing is necessarily a good reason for carrying out a change which would be in place for many generations.</p> <p>No means convinced of usefulness of combining Wiltshire and Dorset Fire Authorities, and very likely to come to a position of being strongly opposed.</p> <p>Will be glad to attend meeting in Westminster or elsewhere to discuss the matter and will keep mind reasonably open, but wanted to give advance notice that instinctively deeply sceptical about the proposal.</p> <p>Latest letter re-iterates that he is personally strongly opposed. Remains puzzled by the arithmetic which concludes we'll save £4m by a merger and significantly less by increasing collaboration with Dorset Fire Authority or with local Councils. Language used is less than clear.</p> <p>Under scenario 3 we say that "[the merger] provides the greatest financial saving. This is because it will enable both services to maximise savings from working with local councils and other partners as well as the money we spend on fire specialisms within the two services." Fears that there is absolutely no substance behind this sentence, which needs significant expansion.</p> <p>He cites that the document continues "For example it has been calculated that from their combined current annual budgets of £55m, a merger of the two fire authorities could save in the region of £4m per year for a merged fire authority which includes the savings for the present Dorset Fire Authority". Again he feels that there is no justification for this figure whatsoever. Later on in the document "This figure is achieved by maximising savings from fire specialist areas that are not available under the other two scenarios." Again, a meaningless sentence and no substance behind it is provided.</p> <p>He has completed the questionnaire and asks CFA Chair to take this letter and the previous one to the Fire Chief to take into consideration in the public consultation.</p> <p>Feels the questionnaire is woefully inadequate, asking in the blandest terms the consultee's preference and then spending two pages asking E&D questions.</p>
SEPTEMBER	01 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Public	R Cousens letter to CFO	Questioning requirement for all the E&D questions in consultation questionnaire
	01 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Public	S Phipps letter to consultation team	Didn't feel qualified to give an opinion
	17 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Fire Minister	Letter from Fire Minister	<p>Government fully supports fire and rescue authority voluntary mergers where shown to deliver improved cost effectiveness and efficiencies. Important to emphasise that they are fundamentally a local decision.....no role for central government to comment or intervene in this locally-led matter.</p> <p>Government welcomed findings of Sir Ken Knight's independent review..that found there is still scope for fire and rescue authorities to make sensible savings, including through locally-led mergers and operational collaborations.</p> <p>The Secretary of State will consider applications to combine two local fire and rescue authorities where proposals have been consulted on and have local support and I am aware that DCLG officials have been working closely with officials from both Wiltshire and Dorset in order to support as prepare for business case for merger.</p>
	18 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Upper Deverills Parish Council	e-mail	In favour of option 3, but to consider approaching Somerset for inclusion. Feel that the 'about you' questions were less than appropriate and that the core issues of capability and cost remain a mystery.
	25 Sep 14	Wiltshire	Glos FRS	Glos FRS response	CFO covering letter, plus questionnaire (Scenario 3 preferred)

Written Submissions Received during the Consultation Period (continued)

	Date	Service	Who	What	Detail
OCTOBER	07 Oct 14	Joint	SW NFU	e-mail	Financial reductions should not negatively impact the ability of frontline staff or equipment to operate quickly and effectively in rural and/or remote areas Structural changes should not impact the ability of frontline staff or equipment to operate quickly and effectively in rural and/or remote areas regardless of if the two authorities remain independent or merge Response times to rural areas are notably longer than urban equivalents and much work has been done to ensure that the gap becomes smaller over recent years. Changes to the financial and structural operation of the Authority must not increase rural response times Local knowledge of call centre staff should not be compromised as part of any financial or structural changes In Wiltshire and Swindon engagement with the farming community has been good to date, notably with regard to property information boxes Initiatives and engagement such as this should not be compromised and must be continued Consideration must also be given to the needs of vulnerable persons in rural farming communities Interested to view in-depth analysis of the impacts of each of the 3 proposed scenarios
	08 Oct 14	Wiltshire	SW CAB cluster meeting	e-mail	Dr Andrew Murrison MP for SW Wiltshire - officially supports Option 3
	13 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Permanent Secretary for DCLG	Sir Bob Kerslake response	Same response as that sent by the Fire Minister
	17 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Swindon Borough Council	e-mail response from Director of Law & Democratic Services	The Cabinet of Swindon Borough Council considered this matter at its meeting on 10th September 2014 and I was authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the political group leaders on the Council, to develop, finalise and submit the Council's response to the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority by 20th October 2014. Swindon Borough Council is supportive of Scenario 3 (Merge with Dorset Fire Authority and increased collaboration with local partners) whilst recognising that there are a number of issues to be resolved before any final view could be taken, in particular around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The funding gap identified in the Consultation Paper; The equalisation of precepts and the impact on Swindon residents; and The governance arrangements of the proposed merged authority and what assurance can be given that the views of the relevant constituent authority are given full weight when considering matters relating to that authority's area.
	20 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Rep. Body	FBU Wiltshire written submission	No opinion was directly expressed in relation to the scenarios. The FBU have stated that they believe that local, as well as national, political decision-making have created the financial circumstances being faced by us. They believe that that the consultation approach was flawed and that the CFA should have consulted the public over a greater fire-precept level to create a financially sound situation that is less reliant on the retained duty system and allows the age profile of the workforce to be rebalanced. They have expressed some concerns about the future democratic accountability of any new CFA and sought assurances that there will be no reductions in fire stations, appliances or uniformed station based posts and that employment terms and conditions will be protected. A cautious response concerned the bridging of financial deficit beyond 2017/18 and any consequential changes to terms and conditions of employment.
	20 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Rep. Body	Unison e-mail response	On behalf of UNISON I am responding to the consultation "Strengthening our Fire and Rescue Service". We feel that option 1 "Remain independent and increase collaboration with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council" is the best way forward. Please see further e-mail below received 29 October requesting that this response is withdrawn.
	21 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Wiltshire Council	Resolution	This Council understands the financial challenges that the Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority faces and appreciates the work that has been done to spell out the options for the future as set out in the consultation document and the draft business case. This Council has concerns about the gap in funding, the uncertainty with regard to equalisation of precepts and the governance arrangements which could disadvantage Wiltshire. The Council seeks assurance in these matters and prefers not to commit to any option until such time as these issues are resolved. Whichever option the Fire Authority decides upon this Council would welcome closer cooperation to reduce costs in both organisations.
20 OCTOBER CONSULTATION END DATE					
OCTOBER	29 Oct 14	Wiltshire	Rep. Body	Unison e-mail response	We recently wrote to you with the view of the UNISON Branch in relation to the consultation of options for Wiltshire Fire and Rescue service. At the time we had not received any feedback from members around this issue, and took a decision based on what we believed offered the most sustainable and secure future for our members. However, we have since received feedback from members indicating that the option cited was not one they wish to endorse, and as such would request that our response is now withdrawn. We apologise for inconvenience caused by the withdrawal of our response.

Questions Received and Issues raised during the Consultation Period

Internal questions/points raised
How easy will it be to equalise the council tax between Wiltshire and Dorset if combination goes ahead?
Do we get more money because of the increase in housing across the county?
The majority of wholetime firefighters are in Swindon, does the Borough Council appreciate the potential impact?
Is Swindon Borough Council obliged to buy services from Wiltshire FRS?
Is it realistic to make the savings? What will Government do if we can't?
National projections for grant cuts are over seven years, combination will be in 2016 if it happens. That leaves us another two years – do we have plans beyond 2018? Or is combination just a sticking plaster over a huge wound?
Scottish government has spent a lot to make new FRS there viable, there's one controlling mind. How can it work here?
If we can only make savings by cutting jobs or wages, what will we do?
There's a lot of regional and national collaboration work underway at the moment, will that continue if we don't combine?
Is CFOA raising concerns nationally about the effect of the cuts on the Service?
What is the local political objection to combination? From a public value point of view, it's a no brainer.
If result of consultation is for combination, will there be an issue with convincing CFA?
Does everyone have to vote in favour?
Real concerns about transparency and that elected members can have this impact.
Wage scales for certain posts differ across the two services, how will that get sorted if we combine?
As things stand, there would be 28 members of the new fire authority. Will that be reduced as well?
If there's a judicial review, would that delay the process? What are the financial implications?
Is the CFA meeting in November open to the public?
Does there being a new fire minister have any impact?
What is the impact of the general election next year?
Might we be affected by a judicial review? Who might do that?
Will there be staff focus groups as part of the consultation?
What about the transformation bid?
Will Streetwise expansion go ahead even if combination doesn't? Would existing community safety initiatives continue?
Can we get sponsorship for specific services?
People outside don't have a clue about what's going on, hard to get people engaged. Can we do localise leaflet drops or something?
How do we ensure that the sample is representative? Still have concerns about balance of focus groups.

Internal questions/points raised
Staff feel real frustration with CFA, different situation in Dorset, lot of stuff being shared on Facebook. People could get lax, may inadvertently overstep the mark.
What most people want to know is whether they have a job.
No mention was made of the number of operational redundancies that will be made when the two services combine.
Any station closures if we merge or not? Will there be job losses and shift changes?
Are any stations going to close, and will there be any job cuts?
There was recognition amongst the group of the significance of the consultation. Some of the attendees asked whether the consultation could be advertised more visibly through putting up banners at fire stations. It was also suggested that we use other events to advertise the consultation.
Wording of consultation document who labelled it 'Strengthening Our Service' when all options could and are likely to lead to job losses and reduction in service
What are the time frames on decisions and likely changes?
How can employees contribute to consultation and express opinions?
We thank the chief for personally delivering this briefing, he was totally approachable, proper and respected by my watch
Looking at what's possible with Wiltshire Council, can we do things more closely with them and is it viable?
Attended briefing at Swindon this morning, everyone seemed really up for the merger, also up for encouraging people to get involved. Suggested they have something they could hand out, possibly tied in with after the incident stuff
Do we know what the consultation responses are like?
People only want to know that a fire engine will be sent if they call 999, don't care where it comes from
Cllr has been to station, seemed frustrated that it's more about politics than service. Not just about savings, has to be about service to the public.
Briefings have been well received
What happens if the FRS loses confidence in the CFA?
When we've done consultation before, we've had crews out in supermarkets etc, why not now?
Have the rep bodies been involved?
Is there a geographical limit to taking part?
What about staff focus groups?
How much is it costing to use ORS?
Can we individually encourage people to get involved in the consultation?
Why can't we do a mail drop in our local areas? 12,000 questionnaires doesn't seem a lot.
Members seem to be getting the maths, not sure they understand the urgency. What it being done to resolve that?
What about the move to reduce the number of police forces?
When will we know?
If the CFA had taken the 2% rise in precept over the last few years where would we be now?
Can we approach private businesses for funding (sponsorship) to bridge the deficit?
If we merge will the savings made be enough to bridge the budget deficit?
Can we learn from D&SFRS merge experience?
Will there be a different outlook if the government changes at the next general election?

Internal questions/points raised
Does Dorset run a salary scheme / what will happen to our scheme?
How will the merger save £4m?
What inputs do the two CFO's have now and will have going forward when one of them will be out of job?
Wouldn't it be better to have a completely new CFO from outside of our services?
Is our equipment similar to Dorset's?
Would being a merged service give us better spending power?
Does local MP resistance make a difference?
Why does James Grey MP oppose merger?
What is the FBU's position on the merger?
How much revenue will be generated by raising (equalising) the precept in Wiltshire by £2.98?
What is our Plan B?
Are the public really aware how dire the situation is?
Has the public been asked whether they would be prepared to pay more (precept) for their FRS?
Are there any differences in operational training between services?
What will happen to our CFBT facility at Kemble?
What is the general view from elsewhere in the service?
What is the view/feeling in Dorset?
What date in November is the CFA meeting?
Will national FBU overpower local FBU?
Any effect on us from what Teresa May has reported on?
The presentation states we will maintain and improve performance 'strong'; however, we are struggling right now. How do you think we will improve?
How likely is the merger likely to happen? There are rumours about the likelihood, falling out with members and friction with councils. Is this true?
Strengthening frontline' - recently our station has been taken off the run, does this undermine what the Service is saying about 'improving/strengthening'?
Will, in the future, the joint services CFA be decreased - shouldn't they feel the cuts like the rest of us?
Is it appropriate to suggest that we could leave a leaflet when leaving an incident, as they are our customers and they should be able to make their preferences known?
Will we know the numbers of people who have responded to the consultation?
Best case scenario is merger, you've still mentioned cuts to achieve cost cuts: how many firefighters will go?
Duty systems - with an ageing workforce, making people work more will we have more sickness, modified duties?
Do we have bridge funding arrangements when we come together?
We get criticised more, where we are unable to do our work, due to political intervention, when do we get to the position to speak up? (This question was combination and Averages led).
It was felt that Wiltshire were withholding information and Dorset were more open with their personnel
What will be the future of JCCC if the merger doesn't go ahead?
Have we considered a joint control with other blue light services?

Internal questions/points raised
How will we make future savings?
CFA decision in light of public consultation
Need transparency before going to a merger with Dorset
Why not go even bigger, combine several authorities?
It would be useful to have a pie chart showing how the current money is spent (WT, RDS, corporate, estates etc)
Sounds like if we don't merge the Service has been mis-managed to such a poor state we have no choice. It'll happen with or without the vote.
Greater awareness required for the public
Can we do more to raise the profile of the consultation?
How will the shadow CFA and MB work?
What are the implications for Control/JCCC?
What is the transformation bid for?
Retained recruitment: how do Dorset recruit? RDS recruitment is too long and impacts full time work
Most people feel there is a need for change and a change/merger with Dorset seems beneficial
Training - still require training to be local to remove travel time. Residential courses are not always convenient for young families
Consultation - how was this undertaken with the public? Wiltshire link to the consultation portal not very user friendly.
JCCCs - what is the position of this if combination does not go ahead?
Duty systems - will uniformed duty systems be reviewed in due course?

External questions/points raised
Level of information supplied today should be shared with staff
Without a business case, I would have chosen option 2
What impact will there be on Fire stations i.e. will we be closing any with a knock on impact on response capability and response times?
What will the impact be on the services ability to support the resilience agenda?
Given that the key issues are capability and cost, I fail to understand why two questions within the questionnaire relate to ethnicity and religious faith, neither of which have any bearing on the core strategic issue.
Are you offering only one option that makes the required savings as the other two seem to be non-starters?
Of all the options which one will affect the arrival of a fire appliance at your front door the most?
Are you saying the service will not be diminished if we merge and would you merge if you didn't have to make the savings, if not are you not already wasting rate payers money?
Could a raise in the precept be considered as the fire service should be properly funded and it would mean a very small rise that most people would be prepared to pay?
If savings were to be made by reducing the number of senior managers who would be responsible for their severance pay?
Will the control centres be merged?
How many calls a day does the control centre take?
Will control be merged and if so will local knowledge be lost and why don't we work alongside the Police and Ambulance Service?
Will you be wasting money re-badging all our vehicles and protective clothing, why not wait until it wears out and replace as necessary to avoid a costly re-brand?
Will the Fire Station in West Swindon remain?
We want to keep all three Swindon Stations as we have quite a large population and three is not excessive.
We are closer to Gloucester than Dorset, why don't we look at merging with them?
If you are looking to save money why not stop personnel retiring after 30 years and keep them on in a back room role so that experience is not lost to the service and their pension would not need to be paid until they retired at the normal time, this was also aimed at the Police
I have heard that some senior officers are retiring, taking the required month off and collecting their pension then coming back into their old job. That is wasting money.
Would like assurance on maintaining Response times and standards under Option 3
What is the potential for income generation?
Was there any intention to close any of the 3 Fire Stations in Swindon?
How would the delivery of Community Safety within the One-Swindon Agenda be undertaken?
Would there be a reduction of Senior Management?
How will such a large CFA number work – appears to be unwieldy?
With the steady drop off in fires owing to the work done by the Brigade to have smoke alarms installed, isn't it time to reduce the number of full time fire fighters by 50%, and make more use of retained fire fighters, so we can keep our independence, but work closely with Wiltshire Council. (The military are implementing such a policy by having more reservists and less regulars.)
What financial payment will be made to the existing CFO's in Wiltshire and Dorset FRS's if a new FRS was formed and a new CFO was appointed and the old guard still had contacts?
Is Mere fire station in danger of closing? Option 3 the only option that will work.

External questions/points raised
How many fires stations would need to close if the CFA went for Options 1 or 2?
A hope was expressed that any Fire Authority members took the view of the needs of the FRS and not political parties.
Where would any new HQ be sited?
Retention and recruitment of RDS must be a concern for any new FRS. Option 3 is the best way forward.
Questions about Tisbury co-responding calls and also about response times
Had Wiltshire FRS considered splitting existing service into north and south and to merge with other FRSs closer to those areas?
Are there any proposals to close fire stations?
Parish Councils are not concerned about the FRS governance but are concerned if Tisbury fire station is to be closed.
The financial figures do not balance.
Will senior officers come from just one service if there is a merger or appointed across the two services?
Why not consider merging with more than one FRS?
What would be the level of job losses if Option 3 progressed ?
What had been learnt from other FRS mergers?
What level of savings Dorset FRS will have to make?
Suggestion that FRS could claim back some funding from insurance companies following fires, RTC's
Why not go straight to a regional solution?
Option 3 does not go far enough.
Option 3 is the only viable Option. The public consultation was not very well put together as the public were not informed of the full picture
How long would the merger take to achieve?
Why savings could not be made by sharing vehicles?
In organisations that he had worked in they called in independent consultants to look at organisational change, can independent consultants look and endorse or criticise the merge plans?