**Subject: Meeting with Shropshire Fire and Rescue CFO**

**Date:** 2 August 2023 at 19:42:44 BST

**To:**

Hi everyone,

I had a meeting earlier today with Simon Hardiman, the CFO for Shropshire Fire and Rescue (SFR).

He is totally on board with lobbying Govt to speed up any required policy changes regarding BESS asap.

He had prepared 2 letters in advance of the meeting (attached); one from SFR to the Chief Execs of both Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Councils, the other to go from each Council’s respective Chief Exec to Govt.

We spoke at length about how to get all Fire and Rescue Services on board to send a consistent message to LPAs and Government. Simon is going to speak with John Roberts, CFO West Yorkshire, and also Chair of NFCC Operations Committee to discuss how best to do this. He is also going to contact Richard Clark, who has been seconded from the NFCC for 18m to lobby Govt.

I’ll chase him up on this after he (& I) get back from our respective holidays in a few weeks time.

A few other interesting things mentioned:

* SFR are looking at the costings to permanently man fire stations again, which currently aren’t permanently manned – A significant reason for this is battery incidents. They recently dealt with an EV fire which took up a lot of manpower for a long time.
* SFR are monitoring the number of BESS units via the Govt Renewables website. I did point out that this isn’t always accurate and doesn’t include sites in planning. There are 3 BESS sites planned within a few miles of me that he was not aware of.
* Because BESS units won’t have employees on site, current regs mean that the Fire Service will have no powers to close them down or bring any legal challenge against the developers should an incident happen.
* The Fire and Rescue Service risks recourse from the Environment Agency for any contamination from run off water when dealing with an incident!
* The whole BESS mess has so many loopholes and implications; none of which seem to adversely affect the developers.
* Infra red cameras used by fire and rescue teams can't cope with the intense heat from Li Ion incidents, so they can't be used to identify the source of any fire or to identify where in a structure to focus the cooling water.

I’ve also forwarded below his follow up email this evening.

Jos