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Andrew Dismore AM

Chair of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

Andy Roe

London Fire Commissioner

(Sent via email)

13 August 2020

Dear Andy,

I write on behalf of the London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee regarding the impact of the UK Government's direction to remove Huawei technology from the 5G network on the Emergency Services Network (ESN) programme.

As you will be aware, on 14 July the Culture Secretary announced that all Huawei technology must be stripped out of the UK's 5G telecommunications infrastructure by 2027. However, the roll-out of the ESN will use 4G and it is understood that it will retain the use of Huawei technology. Part of the rationale for this decision is that the UK's 4G infrastructure will need replacing relatively soon.

Given the £3.1 billion predicted overspend and forecast delay to ESN from 2017 to 2022, I am concerned that the lifespan of ESN will be affected by the phasing out of Huawei from future UK telecoms infrastructure and makes any further issues particularly acute. Airwave is outdated and needs replacing. But it would be concerning if our emergency services were moving to a system based on technology with a short lifespan and security concerns.

Therefore, I would appreciate a response from you setting out the impact of the Government's Huawei ban on the future of ESN, including the impact on its lifespan, the financial implications, its security status and safety concerns, and any discussions you have had with Government in light of the recent policy change.

I would be very grateful to receive your response to this letter by 28 August 2020.

Yours,

Andrew Dismore AM

Chair of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee