

11 April 2006

Mike Hall
Chief Executive/National Commander
P.O. Box 2133
N.Z. Fire Service
WELLINGTON

Dear Mike,

The Union refers to your Whole of Country e-mail of 10 April, and in particular that part relating to Dr. Paula Beever's secondment as Acting F.R.M Western.

The Union refers to Section 24A(2)(a) of the Fire Service Act. This Section specifically requires that any person in charge of a Fire Region "*shall be a member of the Fire Service with Fire Service rank*".

The Union seeks your urgent advice as to whether Dr. Beever does hold Fire Service rank and if so, what rank does she hold.

The Union understands that Dr. Beever does not hold Fire Service rank. That being so, the Union raises its absolute opposition to this appointment.

The requirement for the person in charge of any Fire Region to hold rank is quite specific and is the law for very good reason.

It is a return to the concepts that were attempted to be introduced in the 1990s – they failed then and they will fail again. It is a slap in the face to senior operational managers (who do hold Fire Service rank) that one of them is not given this opportunity for "*a personal development opportunity*".

The Union will act to actively oppose this appointment and therefore asks you to forthwith comply with the law and act to appoint a person holding Fire Service rank to the FRM Western position.

Yours sincerely,

DEREK BEST
SECRETARY