

*Doubts over whether the new control room at Waterbeach will ever open.*

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MALCOLM MOSS MP



STEVE BARCLAY

# 'Time to scrap it'

## MP calls for end to empty emergency fire centre

MP MALCOLM Moss called on the Government to scrap a new regional fire service control centre near Cambridge that is haemorrhaging a staggering £166,000 a month while it stays empty.

"This centre will benefit no one and could in fact lead to greater danger," said Mr Moss, the MP for

NE Cambridgeshire.

"No one has had the guts to say we should knock it on the head."

The 32,000 sq ft building cost £23 million to build on the Cambridge Research Park at Waterbeach and was completed last year.

It has been leased to the Government and was intended to be fully operational by now and housing the emergency 999 control room

EXCLUSIVE by:

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for fire services across six counties.

However delays over IT software means the centre cannot open until 2011 at the earliest – and may never open at all if the Conservatives win the next election.

"I think when we get in we are

going to stop it," said Mr Moss.

Both he and Steve Barclay, the Conservative Parliamentary candidate chosen to succeed him at the next election, have begun a campaign to get the centre scrapped.

Mr Barclay said the centre – which will serve Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk – was another example of regionalisation by

the back door.

"This is an ill-thought-through project, badly managed, and running way over cost," he said.

"I think the public has the right to know what the true costs of this fiasco have been and how long Government funding is going to last."

"I am not attacking the Cam-

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