

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2009
AT NORTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, ST ASAPH

PRESENT

Chris Bretherton-Watt, Chair
Simon Fysh
Cllr Merfyn Thomas
Cllr Glyn Williams

Also present: Colin Everett, Clerk and Alwen Davies, Member Liaison Officer

APOLOGIES

John Pollard
Samindre Soysa

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2008 were approved as a correct record.

2 ANNUAL REPORT

- 2.1 Mr Everett introduced the report and confirmed that there had been no reported conduct cases during the year which meant there was no need for the committee to have met.
- 2.2 The Wales Remuneration Panel had published its Interim report in July 2008 and a supplementary report had been published in December 2008. One of its provisions was for independent/co-opted members to be remunerated. The Clerks of the three FRAs in Wales had met to discuss all the recommendations and Mr Everett would be presenting a report to the next full FRA meeting in March.
- 2.3 In terms of training and development, the code of conduct was the only significant change and training had been provided at the induction day for FRA members in June 2008.
- 2.4 In addition to Mr Bretherton-Watt's attendance at the September meeting of the Executive Panel, Mr Fysh confirmed that he had attended the July meeting.
- 2.5 Mr Fysh expressed disappointment that there had been no introductions at the meeting of the Executive Panel in July 2008.

He felt that there should be a method of inclusiveness. **Mr Everett to recommend to the Chair of the FRA that introductions becomes a standing agenda item for the benefit of Members, Officers and Observers.**

- 2.6 Mr Everett informed Members that an audit committee is being introduced as from April 2009; although not a statutory requirement it is unusual for such a large organisation not to have such a committee and this had been raised by the Wales Audit Office in a previous report.
- 2.7 Members also noted that the Authority will be applying for the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development.
- 2.8 In response to a question about attendance at meetings, it was confirmed that it is a responsibility of both the constituent authority and the FRA to encourage regular attendance by Members.
- 2.9 **Subject to amending paragraph 16, Members agreed the annual report for submission to the FRA meeting on 16th March 2009.**

3 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 3.1 Members were provided with a copy of the code of conduct that was adopted in 2008. It is entirely consistent with the one adopted by law.
- 3.2 The Code now stipulates the difference between personal (declare the interest and stay in the meeting) and prejudicial interest (have to withdraw unless have a specific dispensation). All members (including standards committee members) had signed the new code.
- 3.3 **RESOLVED to note the information.**