

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.**