



Annual Return form - 2010

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PART 1: COMMUNICATION

Annual Report

Does the standards committee produce an annual report?

Yes

What does the report contain?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A personal statement by the standards committee chairman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information about the members of the standards committee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The role of the standards committee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The standards committee terms of reference |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information about the Code of Conduct | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statistical information about complaints that have been received |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information about the length of time taken dealing with complaints | <input type="checkbox"/> A summary of complaints which have led to investigation, sanction or other action |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Details about training/events provided | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The forward work plan of the standards committee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Please describe what "Other" contents are in the report.

Historically a written annual report has not been produced. The first one is to be presented to the authority meeting summer 2010. It will include the elements mentioned above.

How is the standards committee annual report circulated?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sent to all senior officers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sent to all members |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Available on the authority intranet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Available as a specific item on the authority website |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Available in the standards committee papers published on the authority website | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included as a full authority meeting agenda item |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicised in local press | <input type="checkbox"/> Distributed to households |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Available at authority offices | <input type="checkbox"/> Not circulated outside of the standards committee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | |

The report is "Available as a specific item on the authority website", please provide the web address.

http://www.wmfs.net/Your_Fire_Service/Fire_Authority/Ethical_Framework_For_Memb

The report is "Available in the standards committee papers published on the authority website", please provide the web address.

http://www.wmfs.net/Your_Fire_Service/Fire_Authority/Ethical_Framework_For_Memb

Please describe the "Other" circulation methods.

The above is to be applied to the first annual report to be published in June 2010.

Publicising Complaints

How can the public access information about how to make a complaint against a member?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Through a 'compliments and complaints' type section of the council website | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through the standards committee section of the website |
|---|--|

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complaints leaflets available from the authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Included as part of a council newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information is not available to the public | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
- The information is on "standards committee section of the website", please provide the web address.**
http://www.wmfs.net/Your_Fire_Service/Fire_Authority/Ethical_Framework_For_Memb

How can the public access information about the outcome of initial assessment decisions?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Written summary available for public inspection | <input type="checkbox"/> All initial assessment decisions are publicised in the local press |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicised in the local press only if the subject member agrees | <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment decisions published on the authority website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Articles published in the authority newsletter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other |

Please describe the "Other" ways initial assessments are available.

There have been no complaints and therefore no initial assessment decisions made. There would be some form of publication, at least on the website, if there were such decisions.

How can the public access information about the outcome of investigations?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearings are open to the public | <input type="checkbox"/> All investigation outcomes are publicised in the local press |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicised in the local press only if the subject member agrees | <input type="checkbox"/> Published on the authority website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decision notices are available for public inspection | <input type="checkbox"/> Articles in the authority newsletter |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Please describe the "Other" ways investigation outcomes are available.

There have been no complaints and therefore no investigations. There would be some form of publication if investigations were undertaken in the future.

Do you have a mechanism in place for measuring the satisfaction of all those involved in allegations of misconduct? For example the member, complainant and witnesses.

No

Communicating the role and work of the standards committee and standards generally

What does the authority do to promote the work of the standards committee and standards generally to the rest of the authority (i.e. internally)?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dedicated standards committee pages on intranet | <input type="checkbox"/> Standards committee has its own newsletter / bulletin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standards committee issues briefing notes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Articles in employee newsletter / bulletin / newspaper |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standards committee independent members observe other authority meetings | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standards committee independent members contribute to other authority meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Please give further details of the contributions made to other authority meetings.

Participate in policy planning meetings, including a session on ethical governance.

How can the public access information about your standards committee?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dedicated standards committee section on the authority website | <input type="checkbox"/> Within 'council and democracy' type section of website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethical standards issues have been included in the local press / media | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standards committee minutes, agendas, and reports are available to the public |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leaflets and/or posters are placed in public buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Places articles in the authority newsletter / bulletin / other publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standards committee meetings are observed by members of the public | <input type="checkbox"/> Information is not available to the public |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Please provide the web address for the standards committee section on the authority website.

http://www.wmfs.net/Your_Fire_Service/Fire_Authority/Ethical_Framework_For_Memb

What else does the authority do to promote the work of the standards committee and standards generally to the public and other partners?

Nothing

PART 2: INFLUENCE

How does the standards committee communicate ethical issues to the senior figures within your authority (for example the Chief Executive and Leader of the Authority, Party Leaders)?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Formal meetings between standards committee members and senior figures specifically set up to discuss standards | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informal discussion on particular standards issues |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senior figure attendance at standards committee meetings | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monitoring Officer is a member of or attends Corporate Management Team (or equivalent) meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive or senior member has portfolio responsibility for standards | <input type="checkbox"/> Chair (or other standards committee member) addresses full authority meeting(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Describe the "Other" communication methods.

Chair speaks at Policy Planning meetings.

How do the senior figures in your authority demonstrate strong ethical values?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through a strongly promoted whistle-blowing policy | <input type="checkbox"/> By ensuring there are references to ethics in the authority vision / objectives |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demonstrating appropriate behaviours | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior figure(s) makes personal commitment to standards in statements to public/employees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Through any other method | |

Does your authority have a protocol for partnership working that outlines the standards of behaviour expected of all those working in partnership?

No

What mechanisms does the authority use for dealing with member/officer and/or member/member disputes?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informal discussion/mediation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monitoring Officer mediation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair of standards committee mediation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senior figure mediation (e.g. Chief Executive) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advice from Human Resources department | <input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor / legal adviser consulted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Informal hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> No mechanisms other than normal complaints process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

PART 3: TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010, has the authority assessed the training and development needs of authority members in relation to their responsibilities on standards of conduct?

No

If no, please give your reasons why?

Needs assessed at host authorities. However WMFRA have signed up to the West Midlands Leader Board Member Development Charter on 21st September 2009 and as part of this process training and development needs will be regularly assessed at this joint authority level also.

What training/support was provided during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduction to the Code of Conduct | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elements of the Code of Conduct |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role and responsibilities of the standards committee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethical governance/behaviour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other |

Describe the "Other" training/support provided.

Including Assessment Made Clear DVD

Who received training/support?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standards committee chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent members |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other standards committee members | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All authority members |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specific authority members with particular needs (e.g. new members, planning committee members) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

What methods were employed to give training/support?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal training (presentations/seminars/workshops) | <input type="checkbox"/> External trainer/speaker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One on one training | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joint/regional training event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online learning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guidance notes/briefing materials |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standards for England materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethical governance toolkit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

In which areas of the Code of Conduct has training/support been provided?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Respect | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal/Prejudicial Interests |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use of resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bullying |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disrepute | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Predisposition, Pre-determination and bias |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

What other training/support has been provided on areas of an authority member's role or activities they may engage in?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chairing skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Predetermination, Predisposition and bias | <input type="checkbox"/> Blogging and/or the use of social media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electioneering | <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of Information (FOI) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

In general, how well attended was the training provided?

75% or more of those invited

Please give a brief overview of how standards issues are covered in your induction process for new members of the authority?

Meet informally with Monitoring Officer and follow up at Policy Planning meeting.

In which areas of the role and responsibilities of the standards committee has training/support been provided for standards committee members? Please tick all that apply.

☒

Initial assessments

☒

Other action/mediation

☒

Reviews

☐

Investigations

☒

Hearings

☒

Sanctions

☐

Other

PART 4: INVESTIGATIONS

Have any investigations been completed during the period 1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010? No

End of form