

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Audit and Standards Committee
12 January 2023

REPORT AUTHOR: MONITORING OFFICER

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS AND GIFTS/HOSPITALITY

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Background Papers: None

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL	✓	FINANCIAL	✓
HUMAN RESOURCES		EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	OTHER (please specify)	
	New		

Ay implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report

PURPOSE:

To report on the registration of interests and gifts/hospitality by Members and Officers during the past year.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the content of the report be noted

1. Interests

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 replaced personal and prejudicial interests with disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI), and the Fire and Rescue Authority's (FRA) Code of Conduct requires Members to declare other non-statutory interests, as specified. If present when an item arises in which s/he has disclosable pecuniary interest, a Member must declare the interest and may not participate in the discussion or vote on that matter. The FRA has also agreed that the Member should leave the room during the consideration of this item, and this must be recorded in the minutes. Non-statutory interests under the Code are also required to be declared at a meeting.
- 1.2 The FRA's Code of Conduct requires all Members to submit to the Monitoring Officer a list of their DPis within 28 days of their appointment to the FRA. It is confirmed that all Members have completed and submitted registration of interest forms which have been published on the Service Website and these have been reviewed and re-submitted since June 2022.

2. Gifts/Hospitality

- 2.1 Under the FRA's Code of Conduct a Member is required to give written notice to the Monitoring Officer of any gift, benefit or hospitality of any value (within 28 days of acceptance) received by them or offered to them as a Member of the FRA from any other person/body. These notifications are then placed in the public register.
- 2.2 BFRS senior personnel are required to register any gifts, hospitality, fees or other rewards they receive or are offered. These declarations are also included in the FRAs public register.
- 2.3 The Employee Code of Conduct, the Anti-Bribery policy and the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy are currently being reviewed as part of BFRS' Policy Rationalisation Project.
- 2.4 Entries on the register are attached as Appendix 1.

GRAHAM BRITTEN
MONITORING OFFICER