

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Audit and Standards Committee
5 December 2019
Item No. 10

REPORT AUTHOR: SECRETARY/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 Members consider the contents of the report and comment as appropriate.

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. I can report 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 2019.

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 in excess of £50 in value (within 28 days of acceptance) received by them as a Member of the FRA from any other person/body. These notifications are then placed in the public register.
- 2.2 BFRS personnel are also required to register any gifts and hospitality they receive in excess of £50 in value. These declarations are also included in the FRAs public register.
- 2.3 Four entries have been made in the register during the past year, as follows:-

- Two entries for the previous Chair and the Chief Fire Officer to visit Kenya, as previously reported to the FRA, which included accommodation, meals and small value gifts;
- Four concert tickets for Fire and Rescue Service Staff in recognition of Partnership working; and
- Travel and accommodation for four Officers to attend factories and trade shows in Germany to view the latest equipment and technologies.

JOHN ATKINSON
SECRETARY/MONITORING OFFICER