

FOR PUBLICATION

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Audit and Standards Committee
4 January 2024

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

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Background Papers:

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Gifts and Hospitality spreadsheet	N/A

Implications

This table provides a short statement of the impact of the recommendations in this report and/or a reference to the relevant paragraph/s in the report.

Will this report affect any of the following?

	Yes / No	Impact / Reference
Financial Implications	No	
Risk Management	No	
Legal Implications	No	
Privacy and Security Implications	No	
Duty to Collaborate	No	
Health and Safety	No	

Implications		
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	No	
Environmental Sustainability	No	
Consultation and Communication	No	

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 2023.

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 As part of BFRS' Policy Rationalisation Project, the Employee Code of Conduct was reviewed in February 2023 (next review 2025), the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy was reviewed in March 2023 (next review 2026).
- 2.4 Entries on the register are attached as Appendix 1.

GRAHAM BRITTEN
MONITORING OFFICER