



Fire Officers' Association
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Members' Update 06/2020

[Not for external distribution]

June 2020

To all members

Members' Statement 2020 (for year ending 31st December 2019)

This statement is issued to inform members about the Association's financial and governance arrangements as well as to comply with Section 32A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Having submitted the Association's annual return for the business year ended 31st December 2019 to the Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Organisations, we are now in a position to provide you with the under-noted information on the Association's affairs.

A full copy of the Association's annual accounts is available on request to Head Office.

a. Income and Expenditure

The total income of the union for the period was £210,290. This amount included income of £197,491 in respect of membership income. The union's total expenditure for the period was £221,836. Net assets stood at £91,416.

The Association does not maintain a political fund.

b. Salary Paid and other benefits provided to the Chief Executive and members of the Executive

Due to the role reversal between the Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive from April 2019 benefits paid for 2019 are given by person rather than post. The current Chief Executive of the Union, Ade Robinson, was paid £45,454 including £4,738 N.I contributions and £1,927 in respect of pension benefits. The Assistant Chief Executive received £30,212 £2,402 N.I. contributions and pension benefits of £1,301. The President and other members of the Executive Board received no salary or benefits.

c. Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of the Fire Officers' Association

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Fire Officers' Association (the 'Association') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its deficit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the sections 28, 32 and 36 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Association and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Executive Board.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept with the requirements of Section 28, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures on Form 21 of officers' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- a satisfactory system of control over transactions has not been made.

Mr Sam Narula (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Samuels LLP
3 Locks Yard
High Street
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1LT

d. FOA Comment

The Association incurred an overall deficit of £17,940 in terms of income over expenditure during 2019. This is a significant improvement over the £34,420 2018 deficit, and currently the association is operating with a surplus. The level of service available to members continues to be our focus. The Chief Executive and Executive Board are pleased that the cost saving measures introduced have benefitted the Association. Further work will be undertaken to investigate the different ways of working that we have introduced during the Covid 19 pandemic and whether these can be our new permanent ways of working.

Legal costs to support members collectively and individually for 2019 remained high and this will continue during 2020 as we are currently in the process of submitting ET compensation claims for 190 members as a consequence of the Pension Scheme ruling.

The FOA continues to attract new members at all levels in the fire and rescue service and the Chief Executive and the Executive Board welcome them all.

In the meantime, we call upon members to remind colleagues who are not trade union members that the FRS can be a very dangerous place when facing something like the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, the Manchester Arena Bombing or when finding oneself at the centre of any disciplinary allegation and subsequent disciplinary investigation.

Staff members need a credible voice when new or existing duty systems are being negotiated to achieve to best outcome. The need for this type of representation will in our opinion only increase in the coming years.

Please encourage colleagues to reconsider their position. Even if they don't join the FOA, it is important to have access to support.



Ade Robinson
Chief Executive
Fire Officers Association