

## **Statement to members for period ended 31 December 2019**

**as required by section 32a of trade union and labour relations (consolidation) act 1992**

### **Income and Expenditure**

The total income of the union for the period was £11,664,169. This amount included payments of £8,230,608 in respect of membership income of the union. The union's total expenditure for the period was £11,490,720.

### **Political Fund**

In respect of the union's political fund, its total income was £233,848 and total expenditure was £312,007.

### **General Secretary Salary and Other benefits**

The General Secretary of the union was paid £76,576 in respect of salary and £76,285 in respect of benefits.

### **Irregularity statement**

A member who is concerned that some irregularity may be occurring, or have occurred, in the conduct of the financial affairs of the union may take steps with a view to investigating further, obtaining clarification and, if necessary, securing regularisation of that conduct.

The member may raise any such concern with such one or more of the following as it seems appropriate to raise it with: the officials of the union, the trustees of the property of the union, the auditor or auditors of the union, the Certification Officer (who is an independent officer appointed by the Secretary of State) and the police.

Where a member believes that the financial affairs of the union have been or are being conducted in breach of the law or in breach of the rules of the union and contemplates bringing civil proceedings against the union or responsible officials or trustees, he should consider obtaining independent legal advice.

### **Auditor's report**

Gareth Jones (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
BDO LLP  
Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor  
150 Aldergates Street  
London  
EC1A 4AB

## **M2 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The legislation relating to trade unions requires the union to submit a return for each calendar year to the Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations. This return contains accounts, which must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the union at the year end and of its transactions for the year then ended. The accounts set out on the following pages have been prepared on the same basis and are used to complete the return to the Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations.

In relation to The Fire Brigades Union these requirements are the responsibility of the executive council. The accounts of the union have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). In preparing the accounts the executive council is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed.
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so.

The executive council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records and establishing and maintaining a satisfactory system of control over its records and transactions in order to comply with the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (Amended). It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the union and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The union is also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the union's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION**

#### **OPINION**

We have audited the financial statements of The Fire Brigades Union (the 'Union') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows 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 FRS 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 union's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its result 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 Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

## USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the Fire Brigades Union, as a body, in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the union those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the union as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the union in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the executive council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate, or
- the executive council has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the union's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

## OTHER INFORMATION

The executive council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the general secretary's and national treasurer's introduction, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We are required by the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 to report to you by exception in respect of the following matters, in our opinion:

- A satisfactory system of control over transactions has not been maintained.
- The union has not kept proper accounting records.

- The accounts are not in agreement with the books of account.
- We have not received all the information and explanations we need for our audit.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

As explained more fully in the statement of the executive council's responsibilities, the executive council is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the executive council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the executive council is responsible for assessing the union's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the executive council either intend to liquidate the union or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs(UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Councils website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**BDO LLP**

**Gareth Jones (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**BDO LLP**

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor  
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Date 22 May 2020