



DECISION NOTICE: REFERRAL FOR OTHER ACTION

REFERENCE: HWFRA 01/08

Complaint

On 18 September 2008, the Assessment Sub Committee of the Standards Committee of this authority, which comprised Dr M Mylechreest (Chairman), Mr R Gething and Mr D Stevens considered a complaint from Mr P Hayden concerning the alleged conduct of Cllr [REDACTED], a member of Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority.

Below is a general summary of the complaint: -

- That following a site visit to a fire station on the 29th July, 2008, the complainant was informed that the Councillor had made derogatory remarks in relation to women in the workplace and the inappropriateness of women being fire fighters.
- This is not in compliance with the fire authority's equality enactments or policies and therefore potentially a breach of Paragraph 3 (2) (a) of the Code of Conduct.
- The making of such comments, it is alleged that the Councillor could reasonably be regarded as bringing her office or the authority into disrepute.

Decision

In accordance with Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, the Assessment Sub-committee of the Standards Committee decided to refer the allegation to the monitoring officer for further training to be received by Cllr [REDACTED]

Potential breaches of the Code of Conduct identified

We have identified below the paragraphs of the Code of Conduct which may apply to the alleged conduct.

- 3 (2) You must not (a) do anything which may cause your authority to breach any equality enactments (as defined in Section 33 of the Equality Act 2006).



We agreed that it is important that Members do not engage in unwanted conduct on the grounds of sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation or age, which may violate another person's dignity or which creates a hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

This decision notice is sent to the person or persons making the allegation and the Member against whom the allegation was made.

What happens now?

- Other action – the Monitoring Officer will contact the Member against whom the allegation was made to arrange one to one informal training with specific reference to the Code of Conduct and Equality & Diversity issues within 2 months of this Decision Notice.

Additional Help

If you need additional support in relation to this or future contact with us, please let us know as soon as possible. If you have difficulty reading this notice we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you, in line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2000.

We can also help if English is not your first language.

Signed

Date 18 September 2008

Chair of the Assessment Sub Committee

Mr Alan McLaughlin
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