



HEREFORD & WORCESTER
HWFR
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Service Position Statement: Community Events and Marches

Statement dated: July 2026

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS) is proud of its strong connection with the communities it serves. HWFRS regularly engages with local people through events, prevention activity, and recruitment initiatives.

HWFRS has carefully reviewed how the Service participates in community events and marches in an official capacity. This ensures the Service's approach continues to reflect its responsibilities, the Core Code of Ethics, and the trust placed in the Service by the public.

Maintaining Impartiality and Public Trust

It is essential that the Service is, and is seen to be, impartial and politically neutral at all times. In some instances, participation in certain events or marches may risk being interpreted as supporting a particular public, political, or legal position.

HWFRS must also ensure that any use of public funds, staff time, or Service resources can be clearly justified as being in the public interest and aligned with the Service's duties under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

HWFRS Position

- The Service will take a balanced and considered approach to attending public events in an official capacity.
- The Service will not participate in marches or community events where involvement could affect, or be perceived to affect, impartiality.
- Staff may choose to attend events in a personal capacity in their own time, but must not use Service uniform, vehicles, or branded materials when doing so.



What This Means in Practice

HWFRS's commitment to the community remains unchanged. The Service will continue to:

- Support national remembrance events and similar occasions that honour reflection and where participation does not risk compromising the Service's impartiality.
- Attend and contribute to community events where there is a clear operational or organisational benefit, such as:
 - delivering prevention work to those most at risk, or
 - supporting recruitment campaigns, particularly in On-Call Station areas.
- Engage with local communities through targeted events that provide opportunities to share safety advice and promote careers within the Service.

We also remain fully committed to:

- Supporting staff members through staff networks and engagement activity
- Promoting fairness, dignity, respect, and inclusion
- Building strong relationships with the community in ways that uphold impartiality

Keeping the Approach Under Review

HWFRS will continue to review its approach in line with emerging national guidance, including from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), to ensure the Service remains consistent, transparent, and aligned with best practice.