

**Women in the Fire Service
National Executive Committee
Notes of meeting held at the Emergency Services Show
on Wednesday, 21 September 2022**

Attending: Jules King (Chair), Bex Sims (East Midlands RR), Lorraine Moore (LR Bedfordshire), Lisa Howsden (LR Cleveland), Hannah Patchett (LR Surrey), Sally Wilson (LR Surrey), Nicole Smy (Essex), Lyndsey Gymer (Essex)

Apologies received from: Miriam Heppell, Caz Whiteman, Caroline Anderson, Selina Blain, Serena Benassi, Kathryn Billing, Sue Mallinson, Nicola Lown, Dany Cotton, Karla Stevenson, Gina Gray, Elizabeth Curtis, Sara Hall, Liana Selecka Jones, Peggy Male, Hannah Lodder, Daisy Byron, Vicky Wallens-Hancock, Jo Dawson, Amy Beams, Lynsey McVay, Karen Smith and Nathalie Holden.

Notes of the last meeting held on 27 April 2022 were agreed as a true record.

1. Matters arising: None

2. WFS Gifts and Hospitality – no declarations

3. Chairs report:

I wanted to start by thanking you for making the journey to the ESS here at the NEC in Birmingham, an event that WFS has supported for a number of years and has provided us an opportunity to raise the profile of WFS and to engage with many different organisations across the emergency service sector.

Since our last meeting in April we hosted our 20th Training and Development event, the first time we had been together since 2019. It was a huge success and my sincere thanks to everyone who was involved in making the event yet another memorable one. This year we had a waiting list for delegates, full workshops and had more sponsors than in previous years. Our awards celebration was lovely and the panel of women Chief Fire Officers was a real highlight. Another highlight were our guest speakers, the Antarctic Fire Angels, who are also here at the NEC exhibiting.

We continue to work with Women to Work on the Women's Development Programme.

In closing I wanted to once again pay tribute to Her Majesty the Queen, who over the last 70 years has been a constant in our lives and an inspiration for all that we stand for. The Queen's devotion to service was unwavering throughout her reign and she will be missed by so very many. I was so moved to watch the immaculate display throughout the state funeral, the 4,000 military personnel were faultless and should be so very proud. A very fitting tribute for a very special and dedicated woman.

4. Regional Reports:

Hannah Patchett – Surrey FRS: Hannah attended the future firefighters programme, noticed the numbers really dropped away from week one to week six. Some people only need one specific session. **Action:** Information to be conveyed to Sarah Hall.

Bex Sims- Derbyshire (Will send Karen a written update)

Lorraine Moore – Bedfordshire: Menopause day planning going well

5. WFS 2022 Event updates

5.1 Women's Development Programme - update

Fourth programme started on 15 September, with following sessions on 13 October and 9 November.

Delegates attending from Co Durham and Darlington FRS, Tyne & Wear FRS, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Bedfordshire FRS, Staffordshire FRS, Royal Berkshire FRS, Northants FRS, London Fire Brigade and Greater Manchester FRS.

Dates already scheduled for the 5th and 6th programmes in 2023:

Programme 5

Workshop 1 - Wednesday 8th February

Workshop 2 - Monday 20th March

Workshop 3 - Wednesday 19th April

Programme 6

Workshop 1 – Wednesday 17th May

Workshop 2 - Tuesday 13th June

Workshop 3 - Tuesday 11th July

NEC were asked to promote within services. Bookings via Eventbrite or contact Karen Smith if paying by credit card is an issue.

Action: All

5.2 Training and Development Event update for 2023

Dates pencilled in for next year are 9,10,11 June 2023. Debrief held and looking at ways to help with workload leading up to the event. Events Management Team (EMT) to meet early October to begin planning. Always happy to hear suggestions on the event, workshops, entertainment and key note speakers, please contact Karen Smith.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Awards

Circulation of awards policy amendments ahead of the NEC meeting and requested a written response from voting members to confirm they were happy with the changes as the meeting would not be quorate.

Two small changes to wording agreed that will go ahead with all 5 categories and delegate a decision on requests for individual categories to the awards panel.

Confirmation e-mails received from voting member: Alex Johnson, Gina Gray, Caz Whiteman, Jenny Nangle, Amy Beams, Hannah Lodder, Miriam Heppell, Caroline Anderson, Nicola Bottomley, Vicky Wallens-Hancock

Policy changes: APPROVED

Date of next meeting: TBC