

**Women in the Fire Service UK
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, 11 June 2023**

held at
The Fire Service College
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 0RH

Attendees: Directors - Jules King Chair JK, Caroline Anderson Vice Chair CA, Louise Brown LB, Alex Johnson AJ, Nicola Lown NL, Dany Cotton DC, Sara Slater SS, Miriam Heppell MH

1. **Apologies** - none
2. **Minutes of the AGM 2022**

Accepted as a true and accurate record and would therefore be signed off by the Chair.

3. **Matters arising** – None
4. **Chair's Report**

Welcome to the 2023 Women in the Fire Service AGM. One of our WFS Team who is unable to be with us as she is unwell - Serena Benassi has been one of the purple shirts for many years and lead on the incident command simulation. On behalf of all of WFS we are sending our love and best wishes to you Serena.

It has been another really busy year for WFS, and whilst we appreciate this event at the college is our flagship event, there have been many other initiatives completed over the last 12 months.

Through our work with women to work we have delivered 6 Women's Development Programmes to 137 people - which is development programme delivered over 3 half day sessions - the next programme starts in October, if you are interested please do have a look on the website.

We also took part in an NFCC lunch and learn session, and did a WFS takeover of the firefighter podcast. WFS have also been involved in Practice to Progress, which is an initiative around working with individuals and services providing coaching and assessment support to prepare people for initial selection or promotion - If you are interested in finding out more, please do speak to Alex Johnson.

We also delivered a revamped WFS firefighter futures, which is a 6-week programme designed to help support people looking at a career in the FRS

We also supported the NFCC Culture Conference in March, and continue to have an Influence and voice at national level with quarterly meetings with the Home Office.

We have made some minor changes to the construction of WFS and have included Scottish regional reps and the NFCC as local reps.

WFS is supported by 55 Corporate members - FRS and other organisations

Sometimes people ask what they get for being a member of WFS - WFS is a not for profit organisation funded entirely from our membership - events like this take a lot of organising along with the other events we put together in our own time - all purple shirts/ instructors that have helped this weekend are volunteers

Do not want to be exclusive by saying you can only access our events and programmes if you are a member as we want to support as many women from the FRS as possible - but it helps future proof this organisation by being a member.

All information available on the website.

5. Treasurers update

WFS Accounts 2022

WFS operates as a not-for-profit organisation which relies on income from its events, corporate and membership subscriptions to cover its costs each year.

For year-ending 30 April 2022 the accounts have been finalised and approved by the Directors with a final loss of £13,668.00 and Assets of £6,186.00.

Although a loss for the year this was mainly due to having no Training & Development event through the pandemic with the first event in June 2022, after the financial year end. All income and expenditure for this event will be shown in the accounts for year-ending April 2023.

Other than the cost of salaries of two members of staff, our overheads are quite low. Total costs £60,323 of which staff costs are 90% and overheads 10%

SS asked that the Accounts be accepted – **Unanimously agreed**

WFS Accounts 2023

The accounts are being prepared to send to the Accountants but in general we remain in a healthy position. Income for the year is approximately £225,000 mainly from the Training & Development event 2022, the Women's Development programme and memberships. Expenditure slightly higher £229,000, with staff costs £60,000 and event costs £100,000. However, we are still awaiting a number of debtor invoices to be paid.

Balance on the reserve account at year end is £110,902.00.

Appointment of External Accountant

As a member's organisation we require your approval to appoint auditors for this coming year. It is recommended that Nick Westbury LLP is retained.

SS asked that the appointment be approved – **Unanimously agreed**

6. Election of National Executive Committee

Following submission of nomination forms which were approved and seconded, the following people were unanimously elected into post for the forthcoming year.

Directors		Elected
Chair	Julie King	Unanimous
Vice Chair	Caroline Anderson	Unanimous
Treasurer	Sara Slater	Unanimous
Company Secretary	Miriam Heppell	Unanimous
Regional Support and International	Nicola Lown	Unanimous
HR Advisor	Louise Brown	Unanimous
Partnerships Liaison	Kathryn Billing	Unanimous
Patron/Director	Alex Johnson	Unanimous
Patron	Dany Cotton	Unanimous
Executive Members		
Executive Member (1)	Divine Zake	Unanimous
Executive Member (2)	Sara Hall	Unanimous
Executive Member (3)	Lynsey McVay	Unanimous
Executive Member (4)	Sue Mallinson	Unanimous
Co-opted Member		
Co-opted Member (1)	Paula Lyons	Unanimous
Co-opted Member (2)	Nicky Thurston	Unanimous
Co-opted Member (3)	Vicky Wallens-Hancock	Unanimous
Co-opted Member (4)	Karla Stevenson	Unanimous
Regional Representatives		
North East	Joanne Henry	Unanimous
Yorkshire and Humberside	Caz Whiteman	Unanimous
North West	Jenny Nangle	Unanimous
Wales (Joint reps)	Hannah Lodder (Mid & West Wales)	Unanimous
	Clare Amor (South)	Unanimous
	Amy Croxton-Evans (North)	Unanimous
East Midlands	Bex Sims	Unanimous
West Midlands	Sara Hall	Unanimous
East	Daisy Byron	Unanimous
South West	Vacant	
South East	Amy Beams	
London	Anna Snelson	