

Circular number	6/2009	Date issued	12 February 2009
This circular is	For guidance	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This Circular encourages Fire and Rescue Services to become members of the Diversity Champions programme run by the campaign organisation Stonewall		

Stonewall Diversity Champions: Joint letter to Fire and Rescue Services

Issued by:

Erin Richardson

Fire and Rescue Service Development Division

Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue
Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and
Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

**Heads of Human Resources
Equality and Diversity Professionals**

Summary

Communities and Local Government is issuing a joint letter with Stonewall, and other key stakeholders, encouraging Fire and Rescue Services to join Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme.

For further information, contact:

Erin Richardson
**Fire and Rescue Service Development
Division**
Communities and Local Government
1st Floor, Zone A3, Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6DE

Direct line **020 7944 8142**
Fax **020 7944 5664**
E-mail [**Erin.Richardson@communities.gsi.gov.uk**](mailto:Erin.Richardson@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Website [**www.communities.gov.uk**](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

Stonewall Diversity Champions: Joint letter to Fire and Rescue Services

1.0 Stonewall Diversity Champions: Joint letter to Fire and Rescue Services

- 1.1** Communities and Local Government is issuing a joint letter encouraging those Fire and Rescue Services who are not yet members of the Diversity Champions Programme to consider joining. The co-signatories are Stonewall, the Local Government Association, the Chief Fire Officers' Association, the Fire Brigades Union, UNISON, the Asian Fire Service Association, the Fire Officers' Association, the GMB, the National Disabled Fire Association, Networking Women in the Fire Service, and the Retained Firefighters Union.
- 1.2** The Diversity Champions Programme promotes understanding and provides good practice guidance around issues of sexual orientation in the workplace. Membership provides access to good practice sharing, networking opportunities and research.
- 1.3** In 2005 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister issued a letter (under cover of Fire and Rescue Service Circular 39/2005), co-signed by Stonewall, the Chief Fire Officers' Association and the Fire Brigades Union, encouraging membership of Stonewall's Diversity Champions Programme.
- 1.4** 20 Fire and Rescue Services in England are currently members of the Programme. Communities and Local Government would like to encourage further support for the Programme from the Service.

Erin Richardson

Fire and Resilience Directorate