

The Chief Fire Officer

Dear Colleague,

Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme

In 2005 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Chief Fire Officers' Association, the Fire Brigades Union and Stonewall wrote a joint letter to the Fire and Rescue Service to highlight the Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme, which promotes understanding and good practice around issues of sexual orientation in the workplace.

From 2005 to 2007 the Diversity Champions Programme tripled its membership from 100 to over 300. It currently has 446 members, 25 of them Fire and Rescue Services in the United Kingdom (20 in England).

The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations make sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace unlawful. Becoming a member of the Diversity Champions Programme is one way of helping your organisation to meet the challenges ahead – to attract the high calibre recruits from the widest pool of available talent, and to motivate and retain your workforce. The Diversity Champions Programme is Britain's good practice forum providing opportunity for employers to learn from each other and from Stonewall, to promote lesbian, gay and bisexual equality in the workplace, gain access to good practice sharing, networking opportunities and research.

If your Fire and Rescue Service is interested in becoming a member of the Programme, Stonewall would be happy to answer any questions you may have. To find out more, or apply for membership, you can contact:

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Annual membership of the Diversity Champions Programme is available to Fire and Rescue Services at a public sector rate of £1,500 + VAT.

Sadiq Khan MP
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Communities and Local Government*

Ben Summerskill
*Chief Executive
Stonewall*

Charlie Hendry
*President
Chief Fire Officers' Association*

Cllr Anthony Duggan
*Chair, LGA Fire Services Management Committee
Local Government Association*

Matt Wrack
*General Secretary
Fire Brigades Union*

Dave Prentis
*General Secretary
UNISON*

Tej Ajimal
*Chair
Asian Fire Service Association*

Glyn Morgan
*Chief Executive
Fire Officers' Association*

Vic Bagnelle
*National Fire Representative
GMB*

Duncan White
National Disabled Fire Association

Mani Gilbert-King
*Chair
Networking Women in the Fire Service*

Anthony JJ Morgan
*National Executive Equality and Diversity Lead
Retained Firefighters Union*