

The BNP: Where does your brigade management stand on the issue?

During the June 2004 European elections a firefighter, who is an employee of the Hampshire Fire Authority, stood as a candidate for the British National Party. In his election profile he clearly stated that he is a 'retained volunteer Fireman'.

The Union feels membership of the BNP and employment in the UK fire and rescue service is incompatible.

The Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 requires Fire Authorities to

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Promote good relations between persons of different racial groups

The Union believes fire authorities cannot fulfill these legal duties while employing a member of such an organisation.

As part of the Union's campaign to rid the fire service of the BNP and other racist/facist organisations, Samantha Samuels, B&EMM National Chair, wrote to every UK chief fire officer asking them what their stance was on the issue.

Sam specifically asked:

- Will you take a positive stance and condemn the continued employment of BNP members and candidates in the British Fire Service?
- Do you want to protect those workers at risk from the closet members of the BNP?
- Will you speak out and make clear your view on the situation in Hampshire, which could soon be laid at your doorstep.
- What procedures you have in place to deal with this situation were it to occur in your region?

See below the responses (or not!) from your chief fire officer. If you are not happy with the response, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

For more on the FBU's campaign against the BNP and other racist/facist organisations, see Firefighter magazine December 2005 issue.

| BRIGADE | No reply | Reply | Awaiting CFOA guidance | Policy No membership | Policy based on conduct alone | No policy | Further detail |
|--------------------|----------|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------|-------------------------|
| REGION 1 | | | | | | | |
| CENTRAL | NO | | | | | | |
| DUMFRIES/GALLOWAY | | YES | | | YES | | |
| FIFE | | YES | | | | YES | Legal advice |
| GRAMPIAN | | YES | | | YES | | |
| HIGHLAND & ISLANDS | NO | | | | | | |
| LOTHIAN/BORDERS | | YES | | YES | | | |
| STRATHCLYDE | NO | | | | | | |
| TAYSIDE | NO | | | | | | |
| REGION 2 | | | | | | | |
| NIFB | | YES | | | | | Different legislation |
| REGION 3 | | | | | | | |
| CLEVELAND | | YES | YES | | | | Regional response |
| DURHAM CO | | YES | YES | | | | |
| NORTHUMBERLAND CO | | YES | YES | | | | |
| TYNE/WEAR | | YES | YES | | | | |
| REGION 4 | | | | | | | |
| HUMBERSIDE | NO | | | | | | |
| NORTH YORKSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| SOUTH YORKSHIRE | | YES | YES | | YES | | Under review |
| WEST YORKSHIRE | | YES | | | YES | | |
| REGION 5 | | | | | | | |
| CUMBRIA | NO | | | | | | |
| GMC | NO | | | | | | |
| ISLE OF MAN | NO | | | | | | |
| LANCASHIRE | | YES | | | | | In process of reviewing |
| CHESHIRE | | YES | YES | YES * | | | *Interim arrangements |
| MERSEYSIDE | | YES | | | YES | | |

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| REGION 6 | | | | | | | |
| DERBYSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| LEICESTERSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| LINCOLNSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| NORTHAMPTONSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| NOTTINGHAMSHIRE | | YES | YES | | YES | | |
| REGION 7 | | | | | | | |
| HEREFORD/WORCESTER | NO | | | | | | |
| SHROPSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| STAFFORDSHIRE | | YES | | | YES | | |
| WARWICKSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| WEST MIDLANDS | | YES | | | YES | | |
| REGION 8 | | | | | | | |
| MID & WEST WALES | NO | | | | | | |
| NORTH WALES | | YES | | | | YES | Accept issue but no action |
| SOUTH WALES | NO | | | | | | |
| REGION 9 | | | | | | | |
| BEDFORDSHIRE | | YES | | | YES | | |
| CAMBRIDGESHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| ESSEX | | YES | | YES | | | |
| HERTFORDSHIRE | | YES | | | | YES | |
| NORFOLK | NO | | | | | | |
| SUFFOLK | | YES | | | | YES | |
| REGION 10 | | | | | | | |
| LONDON | | YES | YES | | YES | | |

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|------------------|----------|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| REGION 11 | | | | | | | |
| KENT | NO | | | | | | |
| SURREY | | YES | YES | | | | |
| WEST SUSSEX | NO | | | | | | |
| REGION 12 | | | | | | | |
| BERKSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| BUCKINGHAMSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| HAMPSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| ISLE OF WIGHT | NO | | | | | | |
| OXFORDSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| REGION 13 | | | | | | | |
| AVON | | YES | | | | | |
| CORNWALL | NO | | | | | | |
| DEVON | | YES | | | | YES | |
| GLOUCESTERSHIRE | NO | | | | | | |
| SOMERSET | NO | | | | | | |
| WILTSHIRE | | YES | | | | | FLAG |
| DORSET | NO | | | | | | |