FIRE BRIGADES UNION
SERVICE ★ STRUGGLE ★ SOLIDARITY

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Circular: 2015HOC0320MW

TO: ALL MEMBERS 19 May 2015

Dear Brother/Sister

FBU CONFERENCE: CANVASSING AND CONDUCT DURING ELECTIONS – NEW ARRANGEMENTS

FBU Conference in Blackpool last week discussed a policy statement proposed by the Executive Council on **Canvassing and Conduct during Elections**. After amendment, this statement was agreed by Conference. The immediate effect of this is that the union's current rule on canvassing during elections (previously Rule 19A now Rule E4) is suspended. The impact of this will then be reviewed by the Executive Council with a view to presenting Rule changes to the next Conference.

A new code of conduct was agreed as part of this process. This is set out below. Members are reminded that a failure to comply with the policies of the union may constitute a breach of Rules.

Code of conduct on canvassing and conduct during FBU elections

- *Members may canvas verbally or in writing in all elections of the FBU.*
- *Committees of the union may make recommendations in relation to elections and these may be communicated to members.*
- *No individual member or official or committee of the union should make use of FBU funds or resources in order to canvas in any election.*
- *However, this should not prevent communication of decisions of committees using normal methods to members.*
- *Where canvassing activity contradicts the rules or policies of the union or highlights a potential breach of rule or policy, the Executive Council will take such steps as are necessary to address the issue.*

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Election addresses

- *Elections are an essential part of the democracy of the union. It is important to allow elections to run without interference.*

- *Candidates in elections are reminded that all members have an obligation to comply with the policies and rules of the union.*

- *Where an election address contradicts the rules or policies of the union or highlights a potential breach of rule or policy, the Executive Council will take such steps as are necessary to address the issue.*

Members engaged in election activity or canvassing are reminded of their obligations under the union's rules to treat other members with dignity and respect and are required to act accordingly.

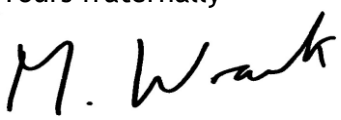
In extreme circumstances the Executive Council may take action under its powers under rule to intervene and, if necessary, suspend election processes.

Nothing in this code prohibits candidates in elections from campaigning for changes to union rules or policies.

Any queries regarding this code of conduct should be raised in the first instance with local officials. The Executive Council will keep the position under review.

Best wishes.

Yours fraternally



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GENERAL SECRETARY

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