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**NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL
FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

**To: Chief Fire Officers
Chief Executives/Clerks to Fire Authorities
Chairs of Fire Authorities
Directors of Human Resources at Fire Authorities**

Members of the National Joint Council

4 December 2012

CIRCULAR NJC/11/12

Dear Sir/Madam

TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXPERT

1. We are writing to inform you that following an open recruitment process the NJC has appointed Steve Hodder as Independent Expert to Chair the Technical Advisory Panel. The appointment, which will be a three year appointment, will take place with immediate effect.
2. The primary purpose of the Technical Advisory Panel is to facilitate agreement between the local parties on the introduction of new shift systems, failing that to make recommendation to the local parties on a potential way forward that it is believed, based on discussion with both local parties, could form the basis of agreement (Section 4, Part A, Paragraphs 4-5 of the 6th Edition of the Scheme of Conditions of Service refers.).
3. Mr Hodder has considerable expertise in handling employment relations issues including time spent as a Chief Conciliator/Director at ACAS (the Advisory, Conciliation & Arbitration Service) and in a self-employed capacity.
4. Arrangements are being put in place to provide an appropriate induction process.

Yours faithfully
SARAH MESSENGER
MATT WRACK
Joint Secretaries