

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STATEMENT 2023/24

Introduction

1. Humberside Fire Authority (HFA) is committed to the highest possible standards of integrity, openness, probity and accountability. The management of the risk of fraud and corruption and ensuring that effective counter fraud arrangements are in place are key elements of Corporate Governance.
2. Our Communities expect the HFA to conduct its affairs with integrity, honesty, openness and to demand the highest standards of conduct from those working for it.
3. The HFA recognises that sound systems of public accountability are vital to effective management and to maintain confidence in the Service and is committed to protecting the public funds entrusted to it. This Anti-Fraud & Corruption Statement outlines the HFA's commitment to creating an anti-fraud culture and maintaining high ethical standards in its administration of public funds. A culture of honesty and openness is a key element in tackling fraud.
4. In order to prevent, discourage and detect fraud, the Authority has in place and will continue to develop appropriate controls and procedures. These are inter-related and are designed to frustrate fraud or corruption. They cover culture, prevention, detection and training.
5. Actions around Fraud, Corruption and Bribery form part of the Authority's commitment to robust governance arrangements.

Key Actions during 2023/24

6. Existing policies and strategies are reviewed on an ongoing basis and annually in conjunction with the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny (GAS) Committee. The Committee considered the Anti-Fraud related policies at its meeting of 22 January 2024 and made recommendations to enhance the policies further.
7. The policies listed below are current and published on the Authority's [website](#):
 - a) Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy
 - b) Whistleblowing Policy
 - c) Anti-Bribery Policy
 - d) Anti-Money Laundering Policy

As stated in the Anti-Fraud & Corruption and Whistleblowing policies the Monitoring Officer and Chair of GAS Committee are, amongst others, independent named contacts that individuals can report any concerns to.

8. There have been two allegations of fraud brought to the Authority's attention during 2023/24 through the Complaints Policy. The first allegation was investigated and found there to be no case to answer. The second allegation is currently under investigation. The Monitoring Officer and Chair of the GAS Committee can confirm that there have been no other identified attempted fraud, bribery or corruption reported during 2023/24. However, the organisation remains vigilant and constantly reviews the operating environment.

Assurance

9. The Authority has comprehensive crime insurance arrangements in place. This cover is for all employees and third parties up to £500k.
10. The GAS Committee is consulted on policy development to combating fraud across the Authority.
11. Arrangements are in place to utilise Internal Audit if required to investigate suspected cases of fraud.
12. We periodically draw to the attention of staff the relevant policies. This is usually through email bulletins and entries in internal communications.
13. We maintain our knowledge, assurance and best practice to deal with current fraud risks and issues through our relationship with Internal Audit. We also receive and disseminate alerts via our Internal Auditors (TiAA).
14. We challenge ourselves through Internal and External audit provision to ensure our procedures are robust and current.
15. We continue to fully participate in the Cabinet Office's National Fraud Initiative (NFI) and receive reports on the outcomes.
16. We have appropriate arrangements in place that encourage staff to raise their concerns. The Whistleblowing Policy and distribution of literature around the Protect Service further support our internal actions.

Signed



Councillor Nigel Sherwood
Chair of Humberside Fire Authority



Phil Shillito
Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive