

CHIEF EXECUTIVES OFFICE
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HAMPSHIRE
**FIRE AND
RESCUE**
AUTHORITY

Fao: David Williams (Chief Executive),
Portsmouth City Council,
Civic Offices,
Guildhall Square,
Portsmouth.
PO1 2BG.

Clerk to the Hampshire Fire and
Rescue Authority

John Coughlan CBE, Chief Executive,
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
Winchester
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<i>Enquiries to</i>	Paul Hodgson	<i>My reference</i>	PH/VW
<i>Direct Line</i>	(01962) 832428	<i>Your reference</i>	
<i>Date</i>	19 th June, 2017	<i>E-mail</i>	paul.hodgson@hants.gov.uk

Dear Mr. Williams,

I am writing on behalf of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority ("HFRA").

As you will know from my letter in April, HFRA has reduced the number of members of the Authority to 10 members plus the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire. Your Council helpfully nominated its member in accordance with my previous request, and HFRA met in its revised structure for the first time on 13 June 2017.

HFRA has been in discussions with the Home Office since Autumn last year regarding the amendments to the Hampshire Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1996 ("the Combination Order"), which are needed to allow the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire to become a voting member of HFRA. Part of these amendments include a change to the quorum requirements, which currently require one member from each of the Constituent Authorities to be present in order for a meeting to be quorate. The proposed amendments to the Combination Order will require members from only two of the three constituent authorities to be present in order to form a quorum, which will ensure resilience. The Home Office was intending to amend the Combination Order prior to HFRA's AGM on 13 June 2017. However, due to the snap general election and the consequent pre-election period, this was not possible. The Home Office have now advised that it could take until September/October for the amendments to be made.

Because of the delays at the Home Office, members of HFRA are mindful that meetings will be inquorate if one of the members from Portsmouth City Council or Southampton City Council cannot attend. In order to avoid this creating any practical difficulties (e.g. if members are ill or otherwise unable to attend meetings), HFRA resolved on 13 June 2017 to invite Portsmouth

City Council and Southampton City Council to appoint one temporary deputy member each, who can attend meetings in place of either Council's substantive member, if they are unable to attend. The temporary deputy members will serve from the date they are appointed until the date on which the amendments to the Combination Order come into legal force. At that time, their appointment as a temporary deputy member of HFRA will cease. The temporary deputy members will not be entitled to receive any allowances under HFRA's Members Allowance Scheme and would only be called upon in exceptional circumstances (if at all). I have set out in full the resolution made by HFRA on 13 June below for your information:

"The Authority agrees to invite Southampton City Council and Portsmouth City Council to nominate one member each to act as a temporary Deputy Member of HFRA and who may, after giving notice in advance to the Clerk, deputise for their authority's substantive member in the event their substantive member is unable to attend a meeting of the Full Authority. The temporary Deputy Members will serve from the date of their appointments by Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council until the amendments to the HFRA Combination Order and in particular the amendments to the quorum provisions come into legal force, whereupon the temporary Deputy Members shall automatically cease to hold office as Deputy Members of HFRA. Authority is delegated to the Clerk to write to Portsmouth CC and Southampton CC to invite them to each nominate one deputy member and to make any consequential amendments to the Authority's constitution and in particular Standing Orders. For the avoidance of doubt, the temporary Deputy Members shall not be entitled to receive any allowances under HFRA's Members' Allowance Scheme".

Pursuant to the above resolution I would like to invite Portsmouth City Council to appoint one of its members to act as a temporary deputy member of HFRA until the Combination Order is amended by the Home Office.

It would be appreciated if you could make the necessary arrangements for this to be dealt with at your Authority's next meeting. Do feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Hodgson
Solicitor and Deputy Head of Legal Services
for Clerk to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

c.c.
The Monitoring Officer
Cllr. Luke Stubbs