



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 24/45

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	1 October 2024
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Statement of Assurance 2023-24 and Modern Slavery Statement 2024
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For approval
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 requires all fire and rescue authorities to provide an annual Statement of Assurance. This statement should outline the overall governance, financial and operational arrangements.</p> <p>Members are asked to review and approve Appendix A, the draft Statement of Assurance for 2023-24.</p> <p>At the Authority meeting in February 2023, Members approved the Authority's first Modern Slavery statement. In line with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, this statement should be reviewed on an annual basis. Members agreed that this would be undertaken each year alongside the Statement of Assurance. Appendix C to this report therefore sets out the revised Modern Slavery statement for approval.</p> <p>Following its approval, the Statement of Assurance will be published on the Service's website along with several key hyperlinked documents to increase public transparency. In addition, the Modern Slavery statement will also be published on the website and uploaded to the Government Modern Slavery statement registry.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	Failure to approve a robust Statement of Assurance and adhere to the expectations in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) may lead to

	<p>reputational risks for the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority).</p> <p>Failure to adhere to the requirement of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and commit to help eliminate discrimination and exploitation in Service activities and supply chains may adversely impact upon the reputation and legal position of the Authority.</p>
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None for the purposes of this report
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Members are asked to review and approve the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statement of Assurance 2023-24 2. Modern Slavery statement 2024

BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>Guidance on statements of assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England.</p> <p>Guidance on delivering a modern slavery statement.</p>
APPENDICES	<p>Appendix A - Service Statement of Assurance 2023-24</p> <p>Appendix B - Policy Assurance Statements 2023-24</p> <p>Appendix C – Modern Slavery Statement 2024</p>
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	<p>Name: Jill McCrae, Assistant Chief Officer, Director of Service Support</p> <p>Email: jill.mccrae@dwfire.org.uk</p> <p>Tel no: 07711 458888</p>