



Mr R. R. B [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
France
714 [REDACTED]

Please ask for: Mark Nolan
Telephone: 01772 866720
Email: dianebrooks@lancsfireandrescue.org.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref: MN/JLW
Date: 25 November 2015

And by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir

**YOUR COMPLAINT:
ALLEGED MALADMINISTRATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME.**

Thank you for your letter to the Chairman dated 6 November, in which you assert that the Chairman and a number of the officers of the Lancashire Fire and Rescue have pursued a course of action which you allege constitutes a maladministration of the fire fighters pension scheme and amounts to "misconduct in a public office," amongst other allegations. Can you please confirm that this is the full extent of your complaint?

Subject to your confirmation that I understand correctly the extent of your complaint, I write to formally acknowledge receipt of it.

Your complaint has been passed to me as the Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority, as it my duty to investigate any such allegations about the elected members of the Authority and in accordance with section 5A(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act ("LGHA"), to prepare a report, where necessary. This would be in circumstances where it is alleged that any proposal, decision or omission in the course of the discharge of the functions of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority has given rise to or is likely to give rise to

- A contravention by the Authority's executive or any person on behalf of the executive of any enactment or rule of law; or
- Any such maladministration or injustice as is mentioned in the Local Government Act 1974.

Headquarters

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
Garstang Road, Fulwood
Preston
PR2 3LH



It is my duty to consult with the Executive when preparing this report, which will also be sent to the members of the Executive and reported to the Authority.

Depending on the findings the Authority may then prepare a report which specifies:

1. What action (if any) the Executive has taken in response to that report;
2. What action (if any) the Executive proposes to take in response to it;
3. When it proposes to take that action;
4. The reasons for taking the action specified in the report, or for taking no action, as the case may be. (Section 5A(8) LGHA.)

My report will also consider whether there has been any breach of the Authority's Code of Conduct and following my investigation, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and following the agreement by the Authority to implement proposals made from the Proceedings of New Standards Arrangements Working Group held on 24 April 2012, I may elect to consult with the Authority's independent person, as to whether there is a case to answer or whether there are remedial steps to be taken, with the agreement of the member concerned.

If your complaint is, in part, against the Chairman of the Authority, the Vice Chairman will be notified as well as the group leaders, as part of the process I have outlined above, which will be subject to your definitive confirmation, as outlined above.

Your complaints are potentially very serious indeed and will be investigated as such. I note that you have supplied documents which have been redacted. I would ask that you provide any further corroborating documents, along with un-redacted copies of those documents (or an explanation as to why they have been redacted) within 14 days of the date of this letter, whereupon my investigation will commence.

I note that you are domiciled in France but I also note that you are in regular contact with other ex- fire fighters, through a blogging network, for whom you have common interests with them, and who act as one. It is unlikely that your location will be any impediment to the effectiveness of my investigation and would wish to reassure you in this regard.

In the event that I conclude there is a case to answer it may also be the case that recommendations will be made for remedial action. This will also give rise to the generation of a report from the Authority in response, for which a definitive outcome and position will be outlined in detail, including any recommendations for remedial action.

In the event that I conclude there is no case to answer then it may be the case that no action will be necessary, which will be confirmed in due course.

In the meantime I look forward to hearing from you within the next fourteen days with definitive confirmation of the extent of your complaints as per my request and any further supporting and un-redacted documents, whereupon I shall commence my investigation, as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter and will revert to you as soon as my report has been prepared and my initial conclusions have been made.

Yours faithfully

pf *Judith L Wilson*

Mark Nolan
Clerk & Monitoring Officer
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

