



Standards Committee – 26 March 2007

Sixth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees

Summary of report

To request that the Committee nominate two independent members to attend the sixth annual Assembly of Standards Committees on 15 and 16 October 2007 at the ICC, Birmingham. In addition to the two independent members, a member from each of the three political groups on the Council will attend the Conference.

Recommendations

- (1) That the content of the report be noted;
- (2) That the Committee be requested to determine which two independent members will attend the sixth annual Assembly of Standards Committees in accordance with the agreed system of rotation and that provision for substitution be made if the member(s) nominated cannot attend.

Resource and legal considerations

None arising from this report.

Citizen impact

None arising from this report.

Environmental impact

None arising from this report.

Performance and risk management issues

None arising from this report.

Equality implications

None

Consultation

None

Background papers

All published.

Signed:

Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services

Date: 16 March 2007

Contact officer

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Report detail

The sixth annual assembly of Standards Committees will be held on Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 October 2007 at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham.

This year's conference is entitled "Down to detail – making local regulation work". With the move to a local filter system for complaints fast approaching, the conference will set out how to put this into action and achieve great consistency and effectiveness in local regulation.

In addition, down to detail, aims to explore the vital issues raised by the revised Code Conduct and will feature practical workshops and plenaries focusing on understanding its key changes.

The conference features a wide range of sessions designed to cover every stage of the local filter and help build the skills, contacts and resources needed to meet the challenges ahead.

The conference sessions include:

- Step by step guide to the local filter process including new reporting requirements.
- Safeguarding standards.
- Managing the filter: resources, challenges and solutions.
- Managing referrals, investigations and sanctions.
- Cracking the revised code.
- Joint working.
- Mediation.
- Confident communications.
- Engaging leaders.

The Committee at its meeting on 29 April 2004 agreed a rotational system of attendance being introduced so that over a three year period, each independent member has the opportunity to attend the assembly. Attendance at the assembly provides an ideal opportunity for members and officers to exchange information, details of best practice on the latest legislative and procedural developments relating to the work of Standards Committee.

In determining which two members attended the conference each year, the Committee is recommended to have regard to the following factors:

- Those independent members who have not attended the conference before;
- When the independent member was appointed, more recent appointments should be considered for attendance sooner rather than later;
- The availability of independent members to attend, if for any reason the member nominated cannot attend, provision for substitution be made.

The table below shows details of each independent member against the criteria set out above.

Independent member	Previous attendance	Retirement
Mr. L. Bates	Yes	2009
Ms. K. McLeod	Yes	2008
Mr. R. Meller	Yes	2009
Mrs. S. Parsons	No	2007
Mr. R. Taylor	No	2007
Dr. K. Biscomb	No	2008

Following the conference, a detailed report will be submitted to the next available meeting of the Committee so that information and experiences gained can be shared with all members.