

EC STATEMENT - FBU ELECTIONS

The Executive Council is acutely aware of Resolution 14 passed at Annual Conference 2007 that stipulated that all elections must be run in accordance with the Rule Book. The Executive Council has complied with this instruction at all times since.

For clarity, the explicit directions of the Resolution mean that:

- all elections must be held in accordance with the laid down timescales,
- all statutory elections have to be conducted by postal ballot, and
- all non-statutory elections have to be conducted by the supply of ballot papers to the Brigade Secretary for distribution to the Branches whose members are entitled to vote.

However, the Executive Council is well aware of the concerns being raised regarding the additional administrative workloads of Brigade Secretaries when distributing the ballot papers in non-statutory elections.

The Executive Council is also concerned at the conflict that would arise of maintaining the confidentiality of our Gay & Lesbian members whilst running an election for a Gay & Lesbian Official in accordance with Rule. The Executive Council believes that the confidentiality of our Gay & Lesbian members must be maintained.

The Executive Council believes that the opportunity for eligible members to be in receipt of a ballot paper in order to vote in an election is a fundamental part of our democratic process. Also, the FBU is obliged to consider the welfare of our Officials and ensure the efficient distribution of ballot papers. These principles apply equally to all FBU elections.

The Executive Council therefore asks Conference to agree to the following:

For a trial period of no more than 12 months, the Executive Council shall conduct all non-statutory elections for National Sectional Officials by postal ballot. The Executive Council shall review the conduct of these, the rate of return, the financial costs and any other organisational benefits or detriments and report their conclusions to Annual Conference 2009, with any proposals that may be appropriate for Conference to decide.