



AFSA responds to Independent Culture Review of London Fire Brigade

26/11/2022

Dalwinder Rai, Chair of the Asian Fire Service Association (AFSA) said:

“Following the hugely informative conference this week held in Cheshire where over two hundred delegates attended, we are determined to work even closer with our members to address the key findings and recommendations of the Independent Culture Review of London Fire Brigade. The key message from the conference was the need to *“listen more and focus on outcomes and action.”*”

The reports highlight uncomfortable testimonies and conclusions. The report highlights graphic accounts of appallingly poor behaviour and painful lived experiences over many years involving women, Black, Asian and minority ethnic people and members of the LGBT+ community. This is unacceptable for the fire and rescue service but also society in 2022.

We accept the commitment & the response from London Fire Commissioner Andy Roe. Furthermore, we also recognise the good practice that is already evident within fire and rescue services in respect of managing disciplinaries and other wider work on culture. We look forward to working with the LFB and our other members offering the expertise, insights of our diverse members and acting as critical friends going forward.

We pledge to review the report in detail and reflect & redouble our efforts nationally and regionally to support cultural transformation. This will include organising regional events and ensuring that our two national conferences in 2023 will focus on the review. We will endeavour as an independent staff network to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders in our activities

We applaud the London Fire Brigade for taking this crucial step and we look forward to working with them and other fire and rescue service to work towards creating an environment that is welcoming to all.

Dalwinder Rai
AFSA Chair

Jagtar Singh
AFSA National Advisor