



**Buckinghamshire**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Making a difference together*

**Richard Walton**  
KPMG LLP  
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Tollhouse Hill  
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Our ref: Letter of Representation 2024/25  
Enquiries to: Mark Hemming  
Direct line: 01296 744687  
Date: 11 February 2026  
Email: mhemming@bucksfire.gov.uk

Dear Richard,

**Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Authority - Audit for the year ended 31 March 2025**

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the Authority financial statements of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority ("the Authority"), for the year ended 31 March 2025, for the purpose of expressing an opinion:

- i. as to whether these give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at year end and of the Authority's income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ii. whether the Authority's financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 ("CIPFA/LASAAC Code").

These financial statements comprise the following: the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Movement in Reserves Statement, Cash Flow Statement, and the notes, comprising material accounting policies and other explanatory information and the Expenditure and Funding Analysis.

The Authority confirms that the representations it makes in this letter are in accordance with the definitions set out in the Appendix to this letter.

The Authority confirms that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as it considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing itself:

**Financial statements**

1. The Authority has fulfilled its responsibilities, as set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024, for the preparation of financial statements that:
  - i. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2025 and of the Authority's income and expenditure for the year then ended;
  - ii. have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

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**Director of Finance & Assets: Mark Hemming FCPFA**  
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Brigade Headquarters, Stocklake, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1BD  
Tel: 01296 744400

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

2. The methods, the data and the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.
3. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which IAS 10 *Events after the reporting period* requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
4. The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to Appendix 3 of this representation letter.

#### Information provided

5. The Authority has provided you with:
  - access to all information of which it is aware, that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation and other matters;
  - additional information that you have requested from the Authority for the purpose of the audit; and
  - unrestricted access to persons within the Authority from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
6. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
7. The Authority confirms the following:

The Authority has disclosed to you the results of its assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

Included in Appendix 2 of this letter are the definitions of fraud, including misstatements arising from fraudulent financial reporting and from misappropriation of assets.

8. The Authority has disclosed to you all information in relation to:
  - a) Fraud or suspected fraud that it is aware of and that affects the Authority and involves:
    - management;
    - members;
    - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
    - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements;

- b) allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Authority's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, members, analysts, regulators or others.

In respect of the above, the Authority acknowledges its responsibility for such internal control as it determines necessary for the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In particular, the Authority acknowledges its responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error, and we believe we have appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.

- 9. The Authority has disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- 10. The Authority has disclosed to you and has appropriately accounted for and/or disclosed in the financial statements, in accordance *with IAS 37 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*, all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- 11. The Authority has disclosed to you the identity of the Authority's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which it is aware. All related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with *IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures*.

Included in Appendix 2 of this letter are the definitions of both a related party and a related party transaction as we understand them and as defined in IAS 24 and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

- 12. The Authority confirms that:
  - a) The financial statements disclose all of the matters that are relevant to the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, including the key risk factors, assumptions made and uncertainties surrounding the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern as required to provide a true and fair view and to comply with *IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements*.
  - b) No material uncertainties related to events or conditions exist that may cast significant doubt upon the ability of the Authority to continue as a going concern.
- 13. On the basis of the process established by the Authority and having made appropriate enquiries, the Authority is satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the valuation of defined benefit obligations are consistent with its knowledge of the business and are in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 Employee Benefits.

The Authority further confirms that:

- a) all significant retirement benefits, including any arrangements that are:
  - statutory, contractual or implicit in the employer's actions;
  - arise in the UK and the Republic of Ireland or overseas;
  - funded or unfunded; and
  - approved or unapproved,
  - have been identified and properly accounted for; and
- b) all plan amendments, curtailments and settlements have been identified and properly accounted for.

This letter was tabled and agreed at the meeting of the Overview and Audit Committee on 11 February 2026.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Stuart Wilson  
Chairman of the Overview and Audit Committee

Mark Hemming  
Director of Finance & Assets and Chief Finance Officer

11 February 2026