

AIMSce

Association of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England

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20/06/2006

To Monitoring Officers and Independent Members of Standards Committees in principal authorities in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey.

A Steering Committee drawn from the Regional Coordinators of forums for Independent Members of Standards Committees has recently established an association known as Association of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England and in short AIMSce. The Inaugural meeting will take place in Birmingham on 16 October; a notice to that effect is attached. There are many advantages for Independent Members in having a representative professional body, particularly since the Government is proposing that the Chair of Standards Committees should be an Independent Member.

To achieve the primary objects of AIMSce will require funding. The initial expenses include setting up a web site, communicating with others in the Conduct regime and hosting the Fringe event, (see notice).

We shall be asking members to pay a once off joining or registration fee of £15 and an annual subscription £10. It appears from various surveys that have been carried out on an informal basis that some Independent Members are in receipt of an allowance from their authorities and some are not. Those in receipt of an allowance indicate significant variation in the amount offered. Those who are not in receipt of an allowance may decide not to join the Association because of the cost notwithstanding the benefits available.

We therefore seek the support of Monitoring Officers in several ways, firstly in recognising AIMSce as another stakeholder in the Conduct regime, secondly by providing your Independent Members with funds to join and maintain their membership of AIMSce and thirdly, if possible, to provide us with a grant to assist with our initial establishment costs.

Copies of the constitution and membership application forms for your Independent Members can be obtained as stated on the notice..

We thank you in anticipation of your support and encouragement.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. Claxton, Chairman AIMSce Steering Committee..

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AIMSce

The Association of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England is a new professional body to provide peer group support, champion the role of Independent Members and represent their interests. The need for collective representation and a powerful voice has become evident in recent months.

The inaugural meeting of AIMSce will be held on 16 October, 2006 at the Fringe Meeting for Independent Members at the Fifth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees in Hall 7 at 18.30 pm.

Agenda.

1. Opening address “Why do we need an association?”
by Bruce Claxton, chair of the AIMSce steering group.
2. Resolution “To adopt the constitution”.
3. Elections to appoint office holders:-
Chair,
Vice Chair,
Secretary,
Treasurer.
4. Election to appoint one director without portfolio.
5. Resolution “To empower the office holders to appoint directors as necessary to fulfill the functions of:-
Membership Secretary,
Newsletter Editor,
Website Manager.”
6. General Discussion.


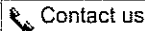


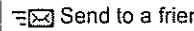
Notes

- a. Copies of the constitution may be obtained electronically by sending an e-mail to bandjclaxton@btinternet.com or by sending a stamped, addressed A5 envelope to AIMSce, Dane Lodge, Main Road, Newbridge, Isle of Wight, PO41 0TR.
- b. An application form to become a member may also be obtained in similar manner.
- c. All members joining before or at the Inaugural meeting will be Founder Members.
- d. Nominations for election to Office Holder, to the board of directors generally and for one of the functions listed in item 5 need to be sent in writing by a paid up member by either e-mail or mail by 6 October, 2006 to the addresses in note (a).

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28 June 2006

New association for independent members to be launched at Annual Assembly

The Standards Board for England's Fifth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees is hosting the inaugural meeting of a new body, the Association of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England (AIMSce). The organisation is being set up to champion the role of independent members of standards committees, representing their needs and supporting their interests. It will be launched at the fringe event 'Independent members gaining a voice', on Monday 16 October.

The increasing local ownership of the ethical standards agenda has placed greater emphasis on the importance of robust and effective standards committees, and independent members play a pivotal role in this. The Standards Board supports the need for an appropriate balance between elected and independent members in the make up of standards committees, and continues to champion the importance of independent chairs of standards committees in maintaining high standards of fairness and accountability to the public.

"We are very excited to be launching AIMSce at the Annual Assembly. It offers an excellent opportunity for us to network with a wide audience of independent standards committee members and others from the local government family. The need for a collective representation of independent members is becoming more and more evident as the need for such members increases." Bruce Claxton, chair of the AIMSce steering group.

Other fringe events at the conference, including sessions hosted by Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers, Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors, Improvement and Development Agency and the National Association of Local Councils, will cover a range of topics including the proposed local assessment of allegations, and broader issues such as the relationship between ethical governance and organisational culture.

The conference has already taken more than 550 bookings and places are now limited. For further details about the conference and how to book, please visit:

<http://www.annualassembly.co.uk/>

Ends.

For media enquiries, contact the press office on 020 7378 5175 or e-mail press.enquiries@standardsboard.co.uk.

88