

AIMSce Association of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England
Website: www.aimsce.org.uk

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15 May 2009.

The Chairman of the Standards Committee,
Central Bedfordshire Council,
Priory House, Monks Walk,
Chicksands,
Shefford,
Bedfordshire.
SG17 5TQ

Dear Sir or Madam,

Invitation to join AIMSce.

We wish to greet the new Unitary Councils and their Standards Committees by giving the Good News that Independent Members of Standards Committees are important and have their own distinctive role to play. In accordance with legislation the Chair of each standards committee and certain of its sub-committees must be an Independent. In The Standards Board for England (SBE) "Local Standards Framework Guide for authorities - 'The Role and Make-up of Standards Committees'. Our Association is referred to on page 15 and is said 'may also be able to provide support'. We believe we can. We believe that to be an effective independent, confidence and experience must be gained through interaction with other independent members. Independent members need to draw strength from each other; they must not be creatures solely of their appointing authority.

The Association will be hosting its fourth consecutive Fringe Event at the SBE Annual Assembly in Birmingham on 12 October, 2009. We invite you and any/all other Independent Members of your Standards Committee to join the Association. It will be through increased membership that we can be an effective force to assist in the implementation of the statutory objectives and the wider role foreseen by Government, the SBE and others. We attach a copy of our information leaflet; our Membership Application Form is printed overleaf. For further information visit our website at www.aimsce.org.uk.

The Association has involvement in consultation with Government and SBE on a number of issues important to Independent Members as well as the broader standards issues. We look forward to you joining the Association or you may already be a member from a previous and or other authority.

Yours faithfully,
R. B. Claxton,



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AIMSce

Association of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England.

Membership Application Form.

There is one class of member: A Member is any person who, being an Independent Member of a Standards Committee, having applied to the Association and paid the appropriate dues, is appointed a member of the Association.

Name Title

Home postal Address

Post Code Telephone Number Mobile

E-mail Fax Number Work Number

Authority to which you are appointed

Position on Standards Committee

Name of Independent Members Network or Forum to which you belong

Please state your qualifications and relevant career experience

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What are your particular interests in becoming a member of AIMSce?

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Annual Membership Subscription £20.00

NOTES:

1. The Subscription year is the same as the AIMSce financial year is from 1st April to 31st March.
2. Please indicate with an * if you do not wish all, or any part of this information to be included on a database available to the membership. [Individual membership data will not be made available outside the Association without seeking prior approval.
3. Membership is not transferable to anyone else save such members whose annual subscription are paid and have been so paid on their behalf by their appointing authority and whose appointment ceases during the Association's Financial Year, their subscription shall be transferred to their successor appointee provided always that the successor makes a valid application for membership of the Association.

I enclose a cheque payable to AIMSce in the sum of £20 (Twenty Pounds)

Signature Date

Post to AIMSce, Dane lodge, Main Road, Newbridge, Isle of Wight. PO41 0TR.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all persons appointed as Independent Members of Standards Committees in England.

Membership is terminated if the Member dies, or ceases to be an Independent Member of a Standards Committee, or resigns.

There is an annual subscription of £20.

AIMSce will maintain a register of those Independent Member of a Standards Committee who join.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Association has a web site at www.aimsce.org.uk.

You can also contact the Chairman Bruce Claxton as follows:

Address: Dane Lodge, Main Road, Newbridge, Isle of Wight.
PO41 0TR.

Phone: 01983 531 427. Fax: 01983 531 885.

E-mail: bruce.claxton@aimsce.org.uk

The Association of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England (AIMSce)

AIMSce is a 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 the driving force behind the desire to establish this body to represent the specific interests of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England.

AIMSce intends to establish and maintain friendly, co-operative working relation with other stakeholders involved with maintaining Standards in Public Life.

DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE

Chairman: Bruce Claxton.

Directors: Robert Venables,
Mike Wilkinson.

NETWORKING

AIMSce will provide support to members in the exchanging of views and comments through the publication of a regular Newsletter.

AIMSce will hold an annual event at the Standards Board's Annual Assembly.

We will also publish information about meetings of Regional Forums of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England to facilitate regional contacts and networking.

FORMAL ORGANISATION

AIMSce is run through an organisation with Officer Holders and Directors. Annual Meetings are held where Office Holders are elected.

There is also a formal constitution.

Further information about the structure and governance of AIMSce can be found on the website.

SUPPORTING

AIMSce will support the interests of Independent Members of a Standards Committee.

It will provide advice and guidance to Independent Members on their statutory duties and responsibilities.

It will champion their interests and empower them in their role and function.

It will carry out and support others in relevant research in matters affecting the membership.

REPRESENTING

AIMSce will champion the interests of Independent Member of a Standards Committee

AIMSce will represent the views of Independent Members of Standards Committees in England to the Standards Board for England, the relevant Government Departments and other bodies associated with Standards in Public Life.