



**Kent** Fire &  
Rescue Service

Democratic Framework Service Orders  
Regulations on the Rights of the Public to  
Report on Meetings

Introduction .....	7
Scope .....	7
Regulations.....	7

## **Introduction**

This document is based on the provisions of The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and the Department for Communities and Local Government publication “Open and Accountable Local Government: A Guide for the Press and Public on Attending and Reporting Meetings of Local Government (August 2014)” and provides guidance for members of the public wishing to attend and report on meeting of Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority or its Committees.

## **Scope**

The guidance applies to any member of the press or public who attends any meeting of the Authority or its Committees and wishes to report or record the proceedings, and will be used by officers to provide reasonable facilities for this .

## **Regulations**

- 1 Members of the public and representatives of media organisations have the right to attend those meetings of the Authority and its Committees that are open to the public in order to report or record the proceedings of the meeting by any means including film/video, audio-recording, still photography and the use of social media such as tweeting or blogging.
- 2 Those wishing to report or record meetings are requested to inform the Clerk before the meeting starts, so that the Authority can make reasonable facilities available so far as practicable, and so that all those attending the meeting can be advised that reporting or recording will be taking place.
- 3 Reporting and recording of meetings must not be carried out covertly.
- 4 Those reporting or recording meetings must comply with any reasonable requests of the Chairman to ensure the smooth running of the meeting, and to protect children, the vulnerable and other members of the public who actively object to being filmed or recorded.

- 5 Reporting and recording of meetings must not be carried out in a manner which is disruptive to the good order of the meeting. Those who act in a disruptive manner may be excluded from the meeting. (Disruptive behaviour can include moving outside the public gallery without the consent of the Chairman; providing an oral commentary, or making excessive noise in recording or setting up or re-siting equipment during the meeting; using intrusive lighting or flash photography; and asking for people to repeat statements for the purposes of recording).

Introduced by	Assistant Director – Policy and Performance
Date implemented	16 October 2014
Revision No	New regulations
Review by	16 October 2019