

Date: Thursday, 07 December 2006

ALL MEMBERS

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF FIRE OFFICER **DISCIPLINARY ISSUES**

Dear Brother/Sister,

You may now be aware of a further email communication from the chief fire officer regarding reports within the Liverpool Echo, which Mr McGuirk states have been prompted by the FBU, they haven't, we responded to questions from Echo journalists in the normal manner, as I suspect MF&RS did.

Mr McGuirk, however, makes a disturbing but very clear and unambiguous comment that there is no 'Back to Work Agreement', only an agreement of principles document. I attach for your information, the signed and dated 'Return to Work Agreement'.

It is incredibly frustrating for the Union to learn of edicts from principal officers that reveal the extent of their confusion on issues such as this that continually spill over into industrial relations matters. Why Mr McGuirk states there is no return to work agreement when there clearly is even more confusing when the Clerk to the Authority in his email of the 4th December 2006, stated '*As part of **the return to work agreement with the FBU...***'

We note with interest the statement concerning the Authorities commitment to fairness at work, we will be approaching the elected members on this and other issues and will report back to our members those outcomes.

We also note the statement that no individual is facing disciplinary action in Merseyside for drinking tea, smiling or walking as reported in the Echo. We fully accept that firm statement and will ensure that position remains within MF&RS.

Yours in unity

L Skarratts
Brigade Secretary

encl