

Theme/issue	ETAP actions/findings	Timing/next steps
<p>The Ethics and Review Panel is now getting well into its year 2 workplan. The work of the Panel complements that of the ETAP Finance Panel and has strengthened ETAP's focus on ethics and transparency.</p> <p>In terms of our internal processes, we are working on updating our ETAP members' handbook to make sure that it reflects our change in approach over the last year.</p>	<p>We have completed a number of reviews overall and one further FARS review has been finalised since the last meeting - see below – with review reports published on the SCO website.</p> <p>We have used ERP meetings to improve members' depth of understanding of FARS' policies and procedures</p>	<p>We have a schedule of meetings for this year and an outline workplan which includes identifying areas for possible scrutiny/review and re-visiting issues/follow-up on completed reviews to ensure that any outstanding issues/queries have been addressed.</p> <p>Current workplan/deadlines: <b>July 2022:</b> Follow-up on Covid staff welfare and wellbeing review.</p> <p>Follow up on the implementation of the FARS Core Code of Ethics.</p>
<b>ETAP Review of Staffordshire FARS' response to the Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1 Report (completed)</b>	FARS asked ETAP to undertake a review of its response to Grenfell Phase 1. ETAP's independent local scrutiny should support the building of public confidence in our service	The findings of ETAP's review were discussed at the previous meeting in February, recognising that FARS had done a considerable amount of work with most recommendations implemented and the remaining seven outstanding being on-track. The full report has been published on the SCO website.
<b>ETAP review: Expenses, gifts and hospitality: (underway)</b>		
Staffordshire Commissioners Office provides a bi-annual report to the ETAP on Expenses, Gifts and Hospitality (to date for the SCH and Force). It is considered that the Report is good practice, assists transparency, public reassurance and complies with statutory requirements	The ERP was asked to review the reporting requirements against existing statutory obligations, policies and procedures and make recommendations on reporting requirements going forward.	The draft Report was completed on schedule and is currently out for response by staff who contributed to it/responded to our requests for information. Update on anticipated publication date at the meeting.
<b>Future reviews/scrutiny</b>		
The ETAP Chair and I have had a very positive meeting with the Chief Fire Officer and appreciate the openness to scrutiny and engagement which underpinned our conversation. At a time of change – the White Paper on FARS governance published this week; the new Fire Safety Act and the implications of Grenfell 2 etc we will be agreeing with the Service the most useful timings for scrutiny and review work.	We will be agreeing our areas of focus using our prioritisation template which is providing rigour and transparency in selecting those areas we choose to review, with a guiding principle being the scrutiny and assurance required to underpin public confidence. We are piloting a post-review qualitative 'Lessons learnt' template approach to evaluation and improvement of our own practices.	<p>Themes currently being explored to improve our understanding of FARS challenges and changes to governance arrangements:</p> <p>Visit to HQ and observation of a Board meeting</p> <p>Attending the Financial Challenge Roadshows scheduled for June.</p>
Jane King, Chair, Ethics and Review Panel 20/05/22		