

THE HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS FIRE BOARD

29 January 2010

**BRAVE@HEART – THE FIRST MINISTER’S RECEPTION
NOMINATION**

Report by Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Summary

Brave@Heart – The First Minister’s Reception is a celebratory event designed to recognise acts of bravery within the ‘blue light’ services and related emergency areas. This report provides outline details of an incident on which a recommended nomination from our Service area is based.

Background

On the 23rd October 2009, Ms. Nikki Hercher saved the life of a neighbour, after rescuing him from a domestic dwelling fire. After establishing that the occupant was still inside the property and unsuccessfully being able to guide him out by asking him to follow the sound of her voice, she entered the property, in thick smoke, concerned only with rescuing the occupant.

On entering, she found that the occupant had fallen whilst trying to escape. Ms Hercher grabbed hold of him, dragged him to the front door and then away from the burning building.

Ms. Hercher, a retained firefighter, then received a call on her pager and after arriving at Beaulay station, attended that same incident in her capacity as a firefighter.

It is the view of the Watch Manager (Malcolm Hannah), former Chief Fire Officer (Brian A Murray) and myself, that Ms. Hercher’s actions were outstanding. It is for this reason that the Service seeks to make this nomination.

Recommendation

Members are asked to NOTE the contents of the report and to AGREE for the nomination to be submitted.

**DAVID WYNNE
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
18 January 2010**