



158 Muller Road, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 9RE

FIRE BRIGADES UNION

South West Region 13

Telephone: 0117 9355132

Facsimile: 0117 9355916

TO: ALL MEMBERS SOUTH WEST

17th June 2011

Dear Brother / Sister

LETTER TO MP'S EXPRESSING ANGER AT PENSION ATTACKS

On the 28th of April 2011 I wrote to all Members of Parliament within the South West expressing the anger and outrage felt by FBU Members within the Region regarding the disgraceful attacks on Fire Service pensions. The Government plans include increasing contribution rates, raising retirement ages and scrapping the final salary scheme within our pension provision. In summary, these plans would mean Firefighters having to work longer pay more and get less.

In my letter I outlined to MP's that Firefighting is a very physical profession which is at the cutting edge of front line emergency services. Our Members put themselves at enormous risk to serve the public in the most dangerous of circumstances and our pensions are not a privilege or a bonus; they are a very hard earned and necessary part of the profession. I ended the letter by asking MP's to support the Firefighters in their constituency by urging the Government not to implement the proposed damaging changes to our Members pensions.

Since that time and despite ongoing negotiations with the TUC, the Government has recently signalled that it intends to press ahead with its disgraceful attack on public sector pensions. I know that everyone is increasingly alarmed and angered at the Government proposals and the FBU is committed to campaigning and fighting on our members behalf for pension justice. As part of this campaign I urge all Members, as a matter of urgency, to write to their own individual MPs expressing their personal concern and anger on this issue. Any change in our pensions will be agreed in Parliament and we must make every MP accountable for their actions. A "model" letter is available on the South West FBU website and South West FBU Facebook page for Members to use as a template if they wish. Your MP's details and address are easily available via the parliamentary website.

Lobbying MPs in this way is an important and necessary part of the campaigning process but the FBU is absolutely clear. If the Government will not budge, we must prepare for a serious fight – which would mean strike action. On this basis I urge every single branch to meet to discuss this issue and every single member to participate.

Best wishes.

Yours fraternally,

TAM MCFARLANE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL