



The Fire Brigades Union

GENERAL SECRETARY: MATT WRACK

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Our Ref: AD/sll

13 August 2014

Penny Mordaunt MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Communities and Local Government
4th Floor
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear *Penny*

PROPOSALS RE FIRE DISPUTE: FIREFIGHTERS PENSIONS

As we approach the midway point of our current period of strike action, we feel it only appropriate to write in order that we can arrange talks between the FBU and yourself to progress the issues discussed at our last meeting.

The current period of strike action concludes across all parts of England (and Wales) on Sunday 17 August and we note your stated position. It would be in the interests of all, for both parties to arrange a meeting as soon as possible. You are aware that this Union's strategy, whether you agree with it or not, includes strike action in order to achieve outcomes that satisfy our members concerns regarding pensions. However our preference has been, and remains, to achieve this through negotiations.

An early meeting could provide the opportunity for us to jointly identify initiatives that may lead to such an outcome and that would obviate the need to call strikes in both the short and longer-term.

FBU negotiators are available to meet any time including prior to and whilst strike action is taking place. Like us, you will have a busy and full diary, however I am certain that other parties who you are scheduled to meet, will recognise the importance of prioritising the joint talks in the same way as those with whom we are due to meet.

An early meeting will give the necessary assurance to our members, the public and Fire Authorities, that both sides are committed to seeking a conclusion which is satisfactory to both sides and an end to strikes.

We have been clear to all members, officials and external organisations, that a meeting with the relevant Ministers is a higher priority than all other appointments and business.

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To that end I wish to propose that we meet on one of the following dates:

- Monday 18 August,
- Tuesday 19 August.
- Wednesday 20 August.
- Thursday 21 August.

or

- Friday 22 August.

We are still in the process of arranging a meeting between you and our National Women's Committee officials. Our officials are anxious though to ensure that the opportunity to meet with the FBU negotiators is not subject to delay and will be happy to meet you after that meeting has taken place.

Your recent correspondence also makes reference to DCLG's review of firefighters terms and conditions. Our views on that matter will be expressed separately.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Andy Dark', with a stylized, cursive script.

ANDY DARK
ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY