



The Premier Trade Union for Professional Firefighters and Emergency Fire Control Staff: May 2014

WE WON'T BE ROBBED!



FIREFIGHTERS SHOW STRENGTH OF ANGER OVER GOVERNMENT PENSION ATTACK

Firefighters across the country walked out for 3 consecutive periods of strike action at the weekend in protest against devastating pension attacks being pushed through by the Westminster Government. The strikes came after the refusal by the Government to make a revised set of proposals despite 3 years of negotiations.

“It is purely the failure of the government to present revised proposals that has led to these strikes. Now the government is walking away from talks. It is utterly irresponsible”, said the union’s general secretary Matt Wrack.

“The FBU has never walked away from discussion and our members have been patient and measured in their approach, but we will not simply stand by while government imposes a pension scheme that is totally unworkable, unaffordable, unsustainable and unfair.”

The proposals put forward by the Government would see firefighters’ retirement age rise to 60 despite studies showing that fitness demands on those working in the fire services are no

longer achievable after the age of 55. Hundreds of firefighters would then face the risk of being sacked simply because of declining health as they get older.

The government has also imposed a third year of employee contribution increases, meaning most firefighters must now pay at least 14.2% of their salary in pension contributions, or over £4,000 a year.

South West Official Tam McFarlane said “The political hypocrisy being shown by Government ministers is a disgrace. During the recent floods politicians praised us to our face whilst robbing us of our pensions behind our back. Now we have been left with no choice but to fight back, and politicians better wake up to the fact that we are united, strong and we wont give up”.

The union has made it clear to Government that we remain committed to a negotiated settlement and are available to meet at any time, including at short notice, to receive and consider any improvements.

Fighting for the Fire & Rescue Service



Protecting Firefighters & Control Staff

United & Strong

Picket lines across the South West



Bath



Bridgwater



Brislington



Falmouth



Gloucester North and South



Salisbury



Speedwell



Springbourne



St Austell



Swindon



Stratton



Temple



Taunton



Westlea



Weymouth



Trowbridge

Our picket lines were united and strong. Please send any other photos from around the Region to: southwestfbu@fbu.org.uk

BE AN FBU MEMBER WITH BACKBONE!



Solidarity with Ashley Brown

FBU Reps from across the South West are giving Members the opportunity to show solidarity and support to sacked FBU member Ashley Brown by buying a limited edition T Shirt, entitled "FBU member with backbone" the proceeds of which will go to a sacked colleague and his family.

The T shirts are available via your local Brigade Official soon and are being done to provide practical support and solidarity with a colleague, Ashley Brown, who has been sacked following lawful strike action in the Fire Service. Every T Shirt will come with the following note:

"Ashley Brown is a Firefighter and FBU member who has been sacked by Hertfordshire FRS for his alleged use of social media in connection with strike action over pensions. None of the alleged social media use was aimed at any individual or at HFRS by name.

Ashley had served with an unblemished record for 26 years at Cheshunt Fire Station and is being represented and supported by the FBU throughout this situation". Please show your solidarity to Ashley and his family.

This is Alan Daly, our only FBU Member at Marlborough Fire Station. He never backs down and always sets up his one member picket line at the station on strike days. A very proud union member in a Union that is very proud of him. Unity



Follow us on our own Facebook page: Go to *South West Region of the Fire Brigades Union* and hit the "like" button. You will receive updates on our work and links to how we are fighting for you locally.



Follow us on Twitter at @southwestfbu

Keep up to date with our videos at 'South West FBU'



You can also follow us on our website at: www.southwestfbu.com

Contact Your Rep:

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FBU SOUTH WEST

The Fire Brigades Union is the premier Trade Union for professional Firefighters and Control Staff across the UK. The South West Region is the largest Region in England and we cover Avon, Cornwall, Dorset, Devon & Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire FRS's.

We represent over 85% of uniformed staff across the UK. Our members cover every role from Firefighter to Area Manager, including the retained duty system. We are committed to protecting our Members, their interests at work and to ensuring that the public receive an excellent and professional Fire & Rescue Service. Join the professionals, contact us at:

www.southwestfbu.com

