



## UNITY AT CHRISTMAS!

**Xmas & New Year Strikes “remind Government we provide 24/7 service all year!”**



Firefighters in England and Wales walked out on strike over the festive period in their long-running dispute with the government over pensions.

Fire Brigades Union General Secretary, Matt Wrack, said: “Firefighters on duty over the festive period don’t have much to celebrate this year and our strikes will remind the government of the service we provide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, every year of our careers.

“Nobody wants these strikes but firefighters remain extremely angry over the prospect of being priced out of their pensions and facing the sack owing to the government’s ludicrous pretense that men and women of 60 can meet the same fitness standards as 20 year olds.

“The government at Westminster has

acknowledged our concerns but not done anything to seriously address them.

“We are starting this year as we ended the last – in a battle to defend our pension rights and try to make the government wake up to the evidence we have presented.

“Over the festive period, while government ministers have been enjoying their Christmas break, our members have been on the front line dealing with storms, floods and other emergencies every day.

“It’s fine to praise firefighters for the work they do – but what firefighters really want to hear is that genuine dialogue and negotiation has begun. That would be a New Year’s message worth listening to. Until that happens our campaign will continue.”

The union says most firefighters who take home approximately £1,650 a month already pay £320 or more a month into their pensions, and from April 2014 this would rise for the third year in a row to over £340 a month (£4,000 a year), with many facing a fourth consecutive rise of 2.2% in 2015.



Evidence also suggests that at least two thirds of the current workforce could face either dismissal from the fire service or a reduction in their pensions of almost half because they are unable to maintain the fitness standards required by the fire service beyond the age of 55.

***Fighting for the Fire & Rescue Service***



***Protecting Firefighters & Control Staff***



Temple, Avon



Bedminster, Avon



Bridgwater



Marlborough



Plymouth



St Austell



Gloucestershire



Camborne

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# PENSIONS CAMPAIGN

## GENERAL SECRETARY TO ATTEND MASS MEETINGS IN SWINDON AND BATH

The General Secretary, Matt Wrack, is to attend two mass meetings in the region in January.

The meetings are open to any and all FBU members regardless of your branch. Please make every effort to attend the meeting most convenient for you.

We have taken 9 periods of strike action in our long running dispute with the government over Pensions.

This will be an opportunity to hear directly from the General Secretary on how the dispute is progressing and ask questions on the many different aspects of the dispute.

January 20<sup>th</sup>

**11.30 – SWINDON FIRE STATION**

**17.00 – BATH FIRE STATION**



### Information for members on strike action and talks over pensions



The general secretary of the FBU has written to all members to outline developments in the campaign against government attacks on firefighters' pensions.

In the circular, Matt Wrack outlines recent discussions with the Westminster government, including their agreement to a series of discussions on the various issues in dispute, the FBU's response to the Department for Communities and Local Government's consultation on pension contribution increases and the possibility of further strike action.

You can read the circular [here](#).

### **85% public support for firefighters' Christmas strikes in Guardian poll**

The Guardian newspaper recently ran a poll of website visitors on firefighters' strikes over the festive period. The question asked: "Members of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) are set to strike on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve over a long-running dispute on pensions. What do you think – should they strike?"

A whopping 85% of respondents said they believed that firefighters' should in fact strike during the festive period.



Swindon,



Stroud, Gloucestershire



Greenbank



Trowbridge



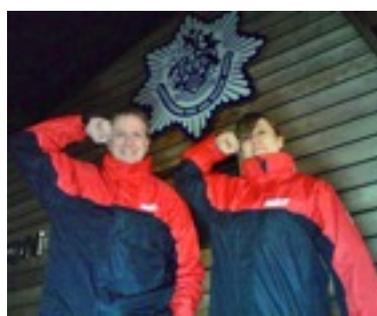
Swindon



Weymouth, Dorset



Crownhill



Cheltenham West

### ***FOLLOW THE PROFESSIONALS!***

The FBU in the South West is committed to keeping our Members posted about news, updates and the work we are doing on their behalf. By using modern communication tools we can keep you up to date quickly, no matter where you work. Follow us on our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube sites and get all the updates.



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](http://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](http://www.southwestfbu.com)

