



DEFEND CONTROL JOBS
AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Bradley House, 68 Coombe Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 7AE

FIRE BRIGADES UNION
General Secretary: Matt Wrack
Telephone: 020-8541-1765
Facsimile: 020-8546-5187
E-Mail : office@fbu.org.uk

CIRCULAR 2010HOC0003MW

4th January 2010

TO: **OUT OF TRADE MEMBERS HOME ADDRESSES**
ALL MEMBERS

Dear Brother/Sister,

FBU Fairer Commutation Campaign - Next Steps

At the Executive Council meeting held on 8th, 9th & 10th December 2009 Executive Council members were given a full briefing on the progress of the Fairer Commutation Campaign and were asked to make a decision on the next steps for members who were not included in the retrospective application date of 22nd August 2006.

Members will recognise that the FBU was the only organisation within the fire service that took up the challenge to gain a fairer implementation date for members of the 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme. This challenge was very successful and resulted in many retired members receiving a substantial tax free lump sum amount. This has been reflected in the many messages of support that have been received at FBU head office. It is also widely recognised that there are some retired members who are disappointed by the date that the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) decided upon and many of these have expressed their desire that the FBU continue to campaign to get an earlier implementation date than the 22nd August 2006.

To this end Ivan Walker (Thompsons solicitors), who has been providing legal advice to the union in the campaign was invited to explain the situation and the probable success rate of the outstanding claims to Executive Council members to inform any decision they would take.

After a detailed debate it was felt that the individuals who retired before 22nd August 2006 but after 1st March 2006 had a reasonable chance of success while those who retired earlier than March 2006 had less of a chance of success.

Taking account of the advice Executive Council members considered the situation and agreed the following position.

1. To continue to support the retired and out of trade members who retired pre 22nd August 2006 but on or after 1st March 2006 by informing them of the potential chances of a successful challenge and providing them with a model complaint to the pension ombudsman to continue with a collective grievance. (This may include further legal assistance).
2. To continue to support the retired and out of trade members who retired pre 1st March 2006 by informing them of the potential chances of a successful challenge and providing them with a model complaint to the pension ombudsman for them to continue with an individual grievance. (This will not include any future legal assistance).

The FBU in conjunction with Thompsons Solicitors will be preparing the model complaints outlined above and these will be available for downloading on the FBU website www.fbu.org.uk in the near future.

The FBU will also be writing to the Department for Communities and Local Government to inform them of this decision.

FBU members will be informed of the situation as it develops.

Yours fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Wrack". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MATT WRACK
General Secretary

SS/EMH