

## Unity is strength

I am an out of trade member and feel obliged to write and tell you what a help the Union has been to me over the last six years. Following my discharge from the brigade in May 2000, Thompsons solicitors looked into the circumstances of my case and determined that I might have a claim to compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. Karin Lynn of Thompsons submitted a claim that, over the course of six years, was twice rejected on technicalities.

Undeterred, she pursued the claim through the appeals procedure and with the aid of a barrister finally got the CICA to approve my claim and make me an award of £53,598.

Without the unity and help of the FBU who funded Thompsons and the diligence and determination of Karin Lynn, I know I would have received nothing. I would therefore like to thank all the members of the FBU through Firefighter and hope this tale serves to reaffirm the principle that 'unity is strength'.

**Bill Haines, East Sussex**

## Our union is strong

It is important in these changing times that we support our Union. Cutbacks now come in the guise of "modernisation". Once there was little distance between senior staff and operational firefighters. The opposite is true today.

After nearly 23 years as an operational full-time firefighter, I retired on ill-health due to a back injury caused by the brigade and requiring surgery.

Though help was given by the brigade during my lengthy sick period to ascertain the seriousness of my injury, it would not have been forthcoming but for the relentless hard work by my union official.



SATOSHI KAMBAYASHI

opportunity to thank Tam McFarlane, FBU South West, for his relentless hard work and the care he showed me and my family during this difficult time. Also a thank you to the very professional Richard Grayson of Thompsons Solicitors Bristol who made sure justice was done.

**Alan Morris, Somerset**

## Helpful and supportive

Throughout my case Thompsons provided a very helpful, supportive and professional service and, even though the case was not a large one, they never failed in their patience and thoroughness whether via letter or conversation. This attitude not only helped me secure a higher payout for damages, but served to confirm an excellent choice in continuing to use them as solicitors for members.

**Nicholas John Fry, Dorset**

## Legal Eagles

The Union and its solicitors, Thompsons, provide action as well as answers when legal problems loom ... as these members can testify

Once I had retired the brigade did all it could to fight the case for compensation for injury at work. It took over four years of excellent work from the Union and Thompsons solicitors to achieve justice.

My case was due to be heard over a two-day period. By midday of the first day the brigade's legal team had agreed to pay all legal costs and the compensation due. This period of more than four years of my life were traumatic for myself

and my wife. Without the superb support of the Union I do not know what I would have done.

Support your Union. It is strong and there for you.

Without your support, the Union will be unable to achieve all it wants on your behalf. Without your Union, you are vulnerable. Together you are strong and your job will remain in the best traditions as fought for in the past, in the present and will be in the future.

I would like to take this

## Successful appeal

After my early retirement due to an 'on duty' accident at work, the North Wales Fire Service decided I did not have a "qualifying injury".

Using the internal disputes resolution procedure, the decision was eventually overturned.

I would like to thank the FBU for this successful appeal against the service and, in particular, express my gratitude and thanks for his expert help to brigade secretary John Purser and also my work colleagues.

**Alan Thomas, North Wales**

→ Write in with your legal problem to [legalbeagle@fbu.org.uk](mailto:legalbeagle@fbu.org.uk) and those of widest relevance to FBU members in the workplace will be selected and answered in future editions. With thanks to Thompsons solicitors.