



Matt Wrack General Secretary
Bradley House, 68 Coombe Road,
Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7AE
fbu.org.uk | @fbunational
020 8541 1765 | office@fbu.org.uk

Circular: 2022HOC0513MW

20 October 2022

To: All Members

Dear Brother/Sister

Merseyside Action Short of Strike (ASOS) ballot

The Fire Brigades Union has commenced a ballot of Merseyside members for Action Short of Strike (ASOS) consisting of not undertaking pre-arranged overtime. The ballot commenced Tuesday 18th October and will conclude 2pm Friday 11th November.

The ballot concerns several local matters which include:

- A longstanding dispute, initially registered 4th August 2016, in relation to the Day Crewing Whole Time Retained Duty Shift System (DCWTR) and Hybrid Duty Shift System.
- A longstanding dispute, initially registered 21st December 2017, in relation to the non-agreed expansion of the firefighter role at paragraph 3.4 of a number of contracts of employment which was not agreed with the union.
- The imposed reduction of night-time staffing numbers in fire control from 6 to 5, initial dispute registered 16th March 2022 and the subsequent refusal by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority to seek external assistance from the NJC.
- The requirement placed upon Apprentice Firefighters to attend the work place for reasons which include, but not limited to; Support Days, on point assessment and end point assessment without recompense. The FBU have sought to address this issue through the demand that agreement is reached with the FBU for a set number of days per year in which apprentices are entitled to undertake "off-the-job" training.

Following repeated unsuccessful attempts to resolve the issues, the Union registered a trade dispute with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service on Friday 30th September 2022, giving them 7 days' notice of our intention to ballot members for action short of strike, consisting of not undertaking pre-arranged overtime, should Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service not address our concerns.

Contd/2...

Having once again failed to address the Union's concerns, the Union at the request of Merseyside Brigade Committee, has been left with no other recourse other than to commence a ballot of Merseyside members for action short of strike, consisting of not undertaking pre-arranged overtime.

All members and Officials are encouraged to send messages of support and solidarity to Merseyside members via Merseyside Brigade Secretary, Ian Hibbert Ian.Hibbert@fbu.org.uk and Merseyside Brigade Chair, Lee Hunter Lee.Hunter@fbu.org.uk.

Yours in unity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Wrack'.

Matt Wrack
General Secretary

MW/sll