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Circular: 2025HOC0123SW

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

To: All Members

Dear Brother/Sister,

### **Covid-19 public inquiry – Every Story Matters**

The Covid-19 public inquiry is reaching a critical stage gathering evidence of how the pandemic affected key workers, such as firefighters and emergency control staff.

Firefighters and emergency control staff did an incredible job during the pandemic, not only keeping the fire and rescue service fully operational throughout, but also by doing additional work to serve our communities, under the national agreement negotiated by the FBU.

FBU officials locally and nationally went to extraordinary lengths to ensure the health and safety of our members during the most devastating health crisis for over a century. More than 200,000 people died from Covid-19 during the pandemic in the UK – one of the worst death rates among comparable countries. There were more than one million hospital admissions, with 44 million estimated to have caught the virus.

The FBU has provided evidence to the public inquiry in our own right and through the TUC, which is a core participant.

The Covid-19 inquiry has appealed to key workers to tell their story of what happened during the pandemic. This is called “Every Story Matters”.

<https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk/every-story-matters/>

The online form is open until Friday 23 May 2025.

FBU members and officials are asked to contribute their own accounts directly to the inquiry. This can be about the situation at work, in control rooms, on stations, training centres or headquarters. It can be about emergency intervention, or the additional work carried out to support our communities and the NHS. It can be a personal account, or about the collective experience of working through the pandemic.

We believe that our members story is a vital one to be told, so please take the opportunity to put your views/experience on the record, so lessons are learned before the next pandemic.

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Wright', written in a cursive style.

**Steve Wright**  
**General Secretary**