



The Fire Brigades Union

GENERAL SECRETARY: MATT WRACK

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COPY OF LETTER SENT TO ALL MP'S

House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear

WILL YOU ALLOW PARLIAMENT TO BE MISLED OVER FIREFIGHTER PENSIONS?

You will recall the debate in the House of Commons on firefighter pensions on 15 December 2014. Many firefighters attended the debate and many, many more watched the debate on television.

During this debate the House was assured several times that measures were being put in place to protect the position of firefighters who might suffer from an age-related decline in fitness. It is clear from the record and from subsequent public comments by several MPs that these assurances influenced the decision of the House that day. However, the claims made on behalf of the Government have subsequently been shown to be without foundation. More alarmingly, they had been warned of this in advance, including by the largest fire service employer in England on the basis of legal advice which should have been known to all at the time.

We have set out the facts on this matter in a letter to the Prime Minister (attached) and to the Speaker of the House (attached).

Firefighters and other members of the public expect that Ministers should give honest and accurate answers when questioned during debate. If they are shown to have failed to do so they must be held to account.

Firefighters are watching this process closely. They will expect that the House of Commons has mechanisms to address these issues and that they are put to use. If this does not happen, the reputation of Parliament and those currently holding office within it will be severely damaged.

I look forward to your response and to hearing what you intend to do to address this matter of serious concern.

Yours sincerely

MATT WRACK
GENERAL SECRETARY