



FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE MATTERS

A PARLIAMENTARY BULLETIN FROM THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION | SEPTEMBER 2016

MORE THAN 9,600 FIREFIGHTER JOBS CUT SINCE 2010

Drastic cuts in crucial firefighter jobs put the public at risk, according to new figures obtained by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU).

Last year, nearly **1,900 frontline firefighter** jobs were cut – this represents another dreadful year of unprecedented cuts in the history of the modern fire and rescue service. This latest cut reduced firefighter numbers by almost 4%, damaging our essential emergency service.

Firefighters are rapidly deployed to a range of emergencies including fires, floods, terrorist incidents, civil disturbances, industrial explosions and train accidents across the UK.

FIREFIGHTER JOBS SINCE 2010

Over **9,600 frontline firefighter jobs** were cut between 2010 and 2016. Throughout the period of the coalition government and one year into the Conservative majority administration, nearly **one-in-six** of the total firefighting force has been lost.

Almost 6,000 of those cuts are to wholetime (full-time) firefighters, while nearly 1,900 retained (part-time) firefighters have also been cut. Almost a quarter of control staff have been lost. Although metropolitan brigades have been hard hit, both combined and county services have also suffered.

WHY FIREFIGHTER JOB CUTS MATTER

Firefighters provide an all-hazards emergency service, rescuing people in their hour of need.

Fewer firefighters means increased risks to the public who pay for the service and are entitled to professional help when they need it.

Politicians have said that we do not need as many firefighters now because there are fewer fires and fire deaths than previously. A key reason for this is the remarkable fire safety and prevention work carried out by firefighters, helping vulnerable people in their communities. But firefighters still carry out very high levels of rescues – **over 100 a day**.

Everyone knows that in an emergency every second counts. Firefighters pride themselves on a rapid response. Fewer firefighters results in the ability to intervene effectively diminishing. Response times have slowed, inevitably putting communities at risk when there are simultaneous multiple incidents. These cuts cannot continue - lives will be put further at risk.

WHY HAVE FIREFIGHTER JOBS BEEN CUT?

Since 2010, central funding to fire and rescue services has been **reduced by over 30%**. Around half of the total fire and rescue budget comes from this source. Local council tax, the other source of funds, has also been frozen.

The government currently plans to embark on a further round of central funding cuts. Members of the FBU will be speaking to politicians across the UK about these dangerous cuts and making the case for investment in the fire and rescue service.

FIREFIGHTER JOB CUTS, 2010-16 AND 2015-16

Fire and rescue service	Number of firefighter jobs cut, 2010-16	% of firefighter jobs cut, 2010-16	Number of firefighter jobs cut, 2015-16	% of firefighter jobs cut, 2015-16
Scotland	801	10.4%	125	1.8%
Northern Ireland	141	7.1%	43	2.3%
Mid and West Wales	74	6.3%	63	5.4%
North Wales	160	19.0%	40	5.5%
South Wales	+67	+4.9%	84	5.5%
Wales	167	4.9%	187	5.5%
Cleveland	157	25.0%	23	4.6%
Durham	57	9.8%	0	0.0%
Northumberland	84	19.5%	13	3.6%
Tyne and Wear	223	23.7%	29	3.9%
Humberside	219	20.8%	63	7.0%
North Yorkshire	98	12.7%	24	3.4%
South Yorkshire	229	24.5%	47	6.2%
West Yorkshire	489	28.4%	97	7.3%
Cheshire	108	14.5%	16	2.4%
Cumbria	151	20.5%	18	3.0%
Greater Manchester	607	30.5%	65	4.5%
Lancashire	308	23.1%	50	4.6%
Merseyside	269	22.4%	+68	+7.9%
North West Fire Control*	+61	n/a	n/a	n/a
Derbyshire	62	8.0%	+18	+2.6%
Leicestershire	189	23.7%	64	9.5%
Lincolnshire	76	10.0%	8	1.2%
Northamptonshire	75	13.0%	46	8.4%
Nottinghamshire	187	19.2%	10	1.3%
Hereford and Worcester	52	7.2%	19	2.8%
Shropshire	64	11.2%	8	1.5%
Staffordshire	178	19.1%	98	11.5%
Warwickshire	70	15.3%	10	2.5%
West Midlands	367	19.0%	74	4.5%
Bedfordshire	63	12.6%	26	5.6%
Cambridgeshire	204	29.4%	+15	+3.2%
Essex	180	12.7%	53	4.1%
Hertfordshire	111	13.2%	7	0.9%
Norfolk	104	12.1%	43	5.4%
Suffolk	140	17.9%	5	0.8%
Greater London	1103	18.3%	232	4.5%
East Sussex	19	2.6%	19	2.6%
Kent	438	26.3%	75	5.8%
Surrey	77	10.2%	28	4.0%
West Sussex*	203	24.6%	n/a	n/a
Berkshire	93	16.1%	6	1.2%
Buckinghamshire	221	35.4%	36	8.2%
Hampshire	98	6.1%	42	2.7%
Isle of Wight	35	16.0%	0	0.0%
Oxfordshire	102	15.6%	44	7.4%
Avon	171	17.6%	28	3.4%
Cornwall	20	3.1%	17	2.6%
Devon and Somerset	254	12.3%	99	5.2%
Dorset	114	16.5%	42	6.8%
Gloucestershire	81	15.5%	23	4.9%
Wiltshire	120	19.9%	7	1.4%
England	8209	17.9%	1513	3.9%
UK	9668	16.3%	1868	3.6%

Source: FBU Freedom of Information requests April - July 2016

*North West Fire Control and West Sussex did not provide 2016 figures