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[f](#) Fire Brigades Union



FIRE BRIGADES UNION

WHY YOU SHOULD BE A MEMBER

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) is the professional and democratic voice of firefighters across the UK. The union represents the vast majority of firefighters including wholetime and retained firefighters and control staff. The FBU aims to represent all those workers who are involved in the provision of emergency fire and rescue.

We are the only union that has a seat on the National Joint Council for local authority fire and rescue services where pay and conditions of service are negotiated for all firefighting and control roles. The FBU represents members at every level and is the only organisation campaigning to defend our fire and rescue service from dangerous cuts that threaten public safety.



EDUCATION

The FBU is the only trade union that has a dedicated national learning centre to deliver education courses to its members.

The union believes that learning should be a lifelong journey, we aim to help members to achieve their full potential at work and in their communities.

The union's education programme helps to ensure that our officials are fully trained to deal with members' problems in a capable and efficient manner.

EQUALITIES

The FBU encourages all members to get involved in their union and actively encourages under-represented groups.

The union has three equalities sections: black and ethnic minority members (B&EMM), lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans members (LGBT) and a women's section. There are also three trade sections: control, retained and officers. Each section has a national committee which discusses key issues relevant to those groups in the service. They then advise the union's executive council.

The sections encourage members to get involved in the union and challenge all forms of discrimination. A series of events takes place throughout the year to support these goals.

INFORMATION

The union strives to keep its members informed. Regular branch meetings are held to keep members up to date and give them the opportunity to raise any concerns or ask questions.

The union's magazine, *Firefighter*, is sent to every member at their home six times per year. The FBU also has a regular email bulletin that members can sign up to.

For immediate updates the FBU has a user friendly website and a range of social media accounts.

FIRE SERVICE WORKERS

The FBU is the professional voice of our service. We defend every job and every resource and aim to improve working conditions for all employed in the fire and rescue service.

The FBU currently negotiates policies with employers that affect all employees. Workers in the service can collectively organise together under the FBU banner to defend jobs and conditions of service.

OFFICERS

The FBU is the only organisation representing officers that puts public safety at the top of the agenda, consistently opposing cuts to our service.

FBU reps have 13 of the 14 employee seats on the Middle Managers Negotiating Body, that negotiates officers' conditions of service. The FBU is by far the best way for officers to make their voice heard.



RETAINED

Tireless campaigning by the union has resulted in bringing about parity between wholetime and retained pay and terms and conditions. The FBU is committed to breaking down the barriers between differing duty systems.

The FBU's campaigning has also saved retained stations across the UK and delivered pensions for those members working the retained duty system.

CONTROL

Control rooms have been hit hard by the austerity agenda since 2010. The FBU is campaigning against chronic understaffing and mergers of control rooms.

The union campaigned against the FiReControl project which failed to deliver efficiency or public safety. The FBU is the lone voice that consistently defends control staff.

A STRONG VOICE

We represent the majority of UK firefighters. Alone, it is difficult to change things - when we unite together we can make a difference.

EDUCATION

The FBU is the only trade union with a national learning centre. The education agenda improves the lives of members and their families.

A SAFER WORKPLACE

The FBU has recognised health and safety reps in every service. Accidents and near misses reported to your rep ensures systems are put in place so we can all work in a safe environment.

END DISCRIMINATION

We actively support members in under represented groups so they can play a full and active role in our union and the service. The union has both equalities and trade sections.

THE BEST PAY AND CONDITIONS

Terms and conditions were never just handed to us. The union campaigns and negotiates to get the best deal possible for members. We fight to protect these and push for the further improvements members want to see.

A DEMOCRATIC UNION

Every FBU official is elected by the union's membership. You choose who best represents your interests.

DEFENDING OUR SERVICE

Our communities need a fully funded, staffed and resourced fire and rescue service. The FBU is often the lone voice campaigning to save our service.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The FBU offers a range of benefits including insurance, discounted high street shopping and legal services including personal injury cover and competitive rates for conveyancing.

SUPPORT IN THE WORKPLACE

FBU reps and officials are fully trained trade union professionals. If a problem does arise your rep will be there to offer advice, support and representation.

PROTECTION

The Accident and Injury Fund is run by the FBU for FBU members. If you suffer an accident at work the fund provides you with financial stability on top of the benefits we have negotiated with fire and rescue services.