

DECEMBER 2025

RED NOTICE



General secretary's comment

Wherever you are and whatever you're doing this festive season, I hope you have a happy one.

In the new year, we will be delivering a simple message: Cuts Kill, and we need investment to keep the public safe. It's time for this government to deliver on the change they promised.

But the real task is in your own brigade and your own workplace. We need to organise, protest, lobby and, yes, prepare for industrial action to stop these cuts. That is down to you.



FBU PREPARES FIGHT ON CUTS IN WAKE OF BUDGET

Rachel Reeves delivered her second budget in November. While it contained some positives – an increase in the minimum wage and the scrapping of the two-child cap – it didn't seek to reverse austerity. The fire service is already facing cuts because of last year's funding settlement, and the settlement for 2026-27 will be finalised in February. On a national level, the FBU will be fighting for funding, but the local level is where most of the action will be – campaigns and disputes in brigades could turn the tide.

Calls for investigation after Hong Kong high rise disaster

More than 160 people are confirmed to have died after seven 31-storey tower blocks at the Wang Fuk complex caught fire on 26 November. 2,611 firefighters and 391 appliances were mobilised, and firefighter Ho Wai-ho died in the line of duty. The FBU has joined calls for a full, transparent investigation into the tragedy.

Environmental groups back FBU demand for investment

Groups including Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Tipping Point and others have written to the government calling on it to fund the fire service. The letter warns that "the UK is dangerously under-prepared for the growing threat of wildfires, flooding, and the wider impacts of the climate crisis."

BUILD YOUR UNION

Control School

The FBU is holding its control school in March. Make sure your control room is represented: <https://www.fbu.org.uk/courses/control-section-school>

Cuts Kill

Wherever you are in the UK, you could be facing cuts. If you don't know what your brigade is planning, find out – and organise! We can beat the cuts if we fight.

TOGETHER alliance

The FBU is proud to be part of the TOGETHER alliance. Join the national demo in London, 28 March. www.togetheralliance.org.uk

OXFORDSHIRE PREPARES TO STRIKE OVER CUTS



Oxfordshire FBU is moving towards industrial action after the service announced it would press ahead with deep cuts, including plans to scrap 42 firefighter jobs and close five fire stations. More than a hundred members rallied outside the fire authority on 9 December, but the council didn't budge. Oxfordshire could now be the first to ballot over the latest round of cuts. More brigades could follow.

London sounds the alarm over appliance shortages

London's full fleet of fire appliances was only on the run during 5% of shifts this year – a result of cuts to firefighter numbers.

Meanwhile, the London Fire Brigade has borrowed cash and redeveloped its HQ. Now, it is projecting another £6m of cuts, and £12m more "savings". The FBU in London is preparing for a fight. Mayor Sadiq Khan is expected to make the decisions at the end of January.



Chaos in Kent under Reform

Kent is Reform's flagship council, and things aren't going well. The fire authority stopped functioning properly, after nine Reform councillors – including the authority's chair and vice-chair – were suspended.

Local FBU members called the situation "a shambles and a threat to public safety".



Key dates for your diary

- **16 January**
Anniversary of the 1977 pay dispute ending
- **31 January**
National march for Palestine, London
- **11 - 13 February**
LGBT+ School
- **24 February**
parliamentary launch of the Cuts Kill campaign



Education events

- **7 & 21 January**
Introductory Branch Officials
- **7 January**
Health Safety and Welfare
- **27 January**
Representing Members
- **28 January**
Rebuilding Solidarity - Challenging the Far Right

