NOVEMBER 2026

RED NOTICE

General secretary's comment

Following our call for a wildfire summit, the Government staged the event in Liverpool last month. Chaired by PM Andy Burnham, and hosting voices from across the FRS, I made the case for thousands more firefighters with the correct PPE and for national wildfire resilience planning. The government announced key steps towards our 10 Wildfire Resilience demands, including correct wildfire PPE, better land management, and improved aerial support. These are key steps towards improving preparedness and firefighters' working conditions. We will continue to make our case for extra firefighters leading up to the spending review in April 2027.





FBU officials delivered evidence to the Wales Wildfire Summit and Senedd on firefighters' experiences from this summer. They highlighted urgent needs for investment, preparedness, and specialised PPE. Following EC member Gareth Tovey's attendance at the Welsh wildfire summit and regional treasurer and control rep Gemma Thomas' attendance at the Senedd Committee, the First Minister announced priorities: national coordination, risk monitoring, and better land management. Wales will explore training, health monitoring, and joint UK aerial firefighting provision. While these steps keep firefighter safety on the political agenda, the Welsh Government hasn't committed to new funding.

Westminster: State of the FRS

GS Steve Wright addressed the MHCLG Committee in October, raising issues around firefighter health and safety. We need action in three areas:

- **DECON:** Every station must be fully equipped to handle toxic risk.
- **Health Monitoring:** We are pushing to ensure health monitoring begins in 2027.
- **Presumptive Legislation:** Laws recognising occupational diseases.

Buildings legislation progress

The FBU welcomed the Building Safety (Remediation of Unsafe Cladding) Bill passing its second reading in Parliament. Although not yet a law, progress towards a public-sector backstop and tougher criminal penalties for building owners and developers is being made. There is still a major shortage of specialists, which is a direct consequence of decades of deregulation and a hollowed-out fire safety enforcement.

BUILD YOUR UNION

GET BALLOT READY

Has your email or home address changed recently? Make sure you contact your FBU brigade organiser with your updated details.

CHECK YOUR NOTICEBOARD

Go and look at your FBU noticeboard. If it's out of date or missing information, tell your rep or update it yourself if you can.

STEP UP AS A REP

If you can, put yourself forward to become a rep or support your branch. The strength of the union depends on members stepping up.

FBU CAMPAIGN AGAINST WEST MIDS FIRE CUTS



West Midlands FBU have urged WMFRS and Fire Authority to stop proposed cuts to frontline services. These changes will endanger communities across the region.
Plans are to close and relocate Ward End Fire Station, remove night-time cover from stations in Bloxwich, Willenhall, and Kings Norton, and cut overnight availability of second appliances at up to 11 other stations.
The FBU issued a press release, with local officials being interviewed on BBC and support being offered by local Labour politicians.

International Control Room Week

The FBU celebrated International Control Room Week by paying tribute to members.
FBU member Nicola Roberts shared a powerful reminder of the lasting impact of frontline emergency work.
She took a call from a mother trapped in a fire with her daughter. With all escape routes blocked, Nicola initiated fire survival guidance. She guided the family to block doors, open windows, and make noise to alert crews.
"While you compartmentalise most of the distressing things you hear, there are always a few that linger," she said.



FBU Cornwall speak out

FBU made a call for more investment in the region's FRS following extreme wildfires.
FBU South West brigade organiser, Jon Walker, told the BBC that recent Land's End wildfires were some of his worst shifts ever, battling fast-moving flames threatening properties.
Jon warns this gruelling pace, which keeps crews – of which over 70% are retained – away from families and businesses, is unsustainable long-term. As extreme weather intensifies, Cornwall urgently requires more funding, support, and recruits to manage growing demands.



Key education dates for your diary

- **10 - 12 Nov**
  FBU Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Development course
  - Cardiff
- **18 - 20 Nov**
  Organisers' School 2026
  - Wortley Hall
- **18 - 20 Nov**
  Grievance and Fairness at Work course
  - Cambridge
- **9 - 11 Dec**
  Introductory Branch Officials' Course
  - Loughborough
- **13 - 15 Jan**
  Introductory Branch Officials' Course
  - Wortley Hall
- **13 - 15 Jan**
  Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Accident Investigation course
  - Wortley Hall

