

SEPTEMBER 2025

RED NOTICE



General secretary's comment

Welcome to the second edition of *Red Notice*, your monthly FBU update.

In August, brigade officials from across the UK met in Birmingham to push forward our campaign for national pay reform. Local all member meetings will follow, so make sure to attend and get involved.

At the same time, we face another battle. It's projected that there will be a £102 million funding shortfall over three years, threatening further frontline cuts. We must be ready to fight.



CAMPAIGN FOR PAY REFORM IS UNDERWAY



On 20 August, brigade officials from across the UK gathered in Birmingham to advance the campaign for pay reform and press for urgent investment in the service.

General Secretary Steve Wright outlined the union's key priorities, while Assistant General Secretary Ben Selby briefed officials on the latest negotiations with employers.

Local brigade meetings will now be held to share updates and outline how members can support the campaign.

FBU condemns cuts threatening firefighter jobs nationwide

The union has condemned a projected £102 million funding shortfall in the fire service, threatening 1,200 frontline jobs. This rises to 2,300 when London and rural brigades are accounted for. An all-out campaign is being launched, demanding the government reverse course.

Ministers to issue proposals for College of Fire and Rescue

Ministers will soon publish proposals for a new College of Fire and Rescue, following Grenfell Inquiry recommendations. The FBU has called for it must be a public body with democratic governance, setting national standards to improve services and firefighter safety and working conditions.

BUILD YOUR UNION

Go to your local pay reform meeting

Local officials will be holding meetings in the coming months on the campaign for pay reform. Find yours: www.fbu.org.uk/campaigns/pay-reform

Hold a branch meeting on pay reform

Ask your FBU brigade for support if you haven't held a branch meeting before.

Demand investment from politicians

Write to your MP and councillor making the case for investment and pay reform. Use the online tools here: www.fbu.org.uk/campaigns/pay-reform

UNION REPRESENTS FIREFIGHTERS AT EUROPEAN FIRE SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

Assistant General Secretary Ben Selby headed to the 5th European Symposium on Fire Safety Science in Slovenia, where researchers worldwide shared knowledge on fire behaviour, dynamics, engineering, and sustainability.

The union ensured firefighters' safety and voices remained central to policy, standards, and testing discussions, reinforcing their influence on critical research.

Public safety at risk as Hampshire Chief Fire Officer confirms cuts

Chief fire officer Neil Odin has told Hampshire and Isle of Wight firefighters that £1.6 million frontline cuts will go ahead, despite the fire authority voting on 29 August to delay.

Firefighters, councillors and the public warn safety is at risk, with inspections already rating the service inadequate in staffing and skills. The FBU is urging the service to use £23.9 million in reserves to protect the frontline while campaigning for

sustainable central government funding.



Lancashire firefighters unite over safety concerns and service cuts

Nearly 90 Lancashire FBU members met on 1 September to address growing concerns over firefighter safety and service cuts. Members opposed trials mobilising retained crews with reduced staffing, raised objections over "stab vests" linked to MTA response, and condemned the removal of second appliances from key stations.



Key dates for your diary

- **7-10 September**
TUC Congress
- **13 September**
March Against Tommy Robinson
- **20 September**
Make Them Pay march and rally in central London
- **Various dates**
Pay reform briefings



Education events

- **1-3 October**
Officers' School
- **8 October**
Tackling the Rise of the Far Right
- **11-14 November**
National School

