

SEPTEMBER 2026

RED NOTICE

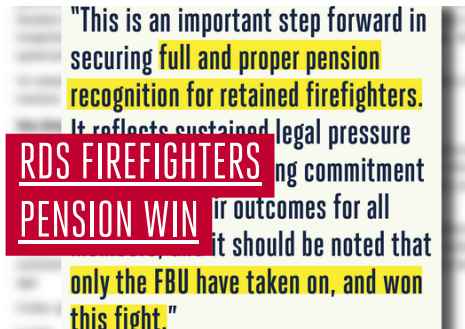


General secretary's comment

Prime Minister Andy Burnham has confirmed in Parliament that he will be chairing a wildfire summit with the FBU and other Fire and Rescue services stakeholders.

This is set to be one of the most significant summits across any sector of the economy and it would not have been possible without the union's influence at the highest levels and the pressure we bring to bear as a strong trade union that looks after its members.

We will continue to push our 10 demands on wildfires which includes a minimum of 5,000 more firefighters, ensuring our members have the right PPE and a national strategy and greater resilience.



Retained firefighters moving into wholetime roles have won a major concession on pensions, with previous service now counting toward their final entitlement.

Under the terms of the negotiated settlement, breaks in service of up to a month will be treated as continuous, while longer gaps will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The agreement brings an end to the long-standing issue of lost service credit for those transitioning between duty systems, offering greater financial security and recognition for years of retained service.

This is a long-overdue step toward fairness and parity.

Pay reform gathering pace

Following members' acceptance of this year's pay award, the FBU and National Employers are now stepping up detailed discussions on replacing the outdated pay structure.

A new senior working group involving FBU officials, employers and the National Joint Secretaries has been established, with a programme of intensive meetings already underway.

I will update you again in the next Red Notice.

9/11 - 25 years on

25 years on from 9/11, we remember the 343 firefighters who lost their lives responding to the terrorist attacks in New York.

This week, as IAFF officials attend the World Fire Congress in London, the general Secretary, President and FBU officials will meet with General President Ed Kelly and senior IAFF colleagues.

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

Keep an eye out on your emails, FBU socials and Firefighter magazine for details of how you can get involved in shaping the wildfires summit.

STEP UP AS A REP

If you can, put yourself forward to become a regional B&EMM rep. [There are vacancies in six regions.](#) The strength of the union depends on members stepping up.



Key dates for your diary

- **9 September**
Emergency Services Day
- **13 - 16 September**
TUC Congress
- **16 - 17 September**
Emergency Services Show
- **27 - 30 September**
Labour Conference
- **1 October**
Black History Month

Education events

- **23 - 25 September**
Employment Law in Practice course
- **2 - 4 October**
Black & Ethnic Minority Members (B&EMM) School 2026
- **13 - 15 October**
Introduction to health, safety and welfare at work
- **19 - 21 October**
Pensions - supporting members with ill-health retirement (IQMP)

CLEVELAND CUTS OPPOSITION

[A petition has been launched](#)

pushing for more central government funding of Cleveland fire and rescue service to prevent cuts to firefighter jobs.

The service faces a 1.2m deficit which will go to public consultation shortly. FBU is calling for the funding gap to be met and will oppose any cuts to jobs within the service.

Cleveland FBU secretary James Sudron said: *"The public, quite frankly, deserve better. They need to feel safer than their homes and know that they have a fully resourced and responsive fire service."*

Gloucestershire FBU oppose council station relocation

The FBU has criticised a proposal to move 14-night shift firefighter roles from Cheltenham to the Forest of Dean.

Gloucestershire County Council is considering relocating the roles from Cheltenham West station at Uckington to create a day shift in Cinderford.

Kate Yhnell, FBU chair for Gloucestershire, said moving resources in this way is dangerous, pointing out that the population is growing and risks are increasing.

Solidarity with US colleagues



UK firefighters have travelled to the United States for the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11 which saw 2,977 people killed including 343 firefighters.

FBU member Lexi Grant, joined colleagues to do a stair climb at the Atlanta Braves stadium on Saturday, covering the equivalent distance to the height of the Twin Towers.

Grant said she was honoured to have been selected and was expecting a tough challenge in a hot and humid Atlanta, with her uniform weighing more than 10kg.

"It's a fire suit, so it's thick, and as soon as you put that on with the heat, you are going to be sweating," she told the BBC.

