



Campaign Update in Devon and Somerset FBU - April 2013

TWO WEEKS TO GO!

FBU Members undertake “big push” for public support as consultation comes to a close



The FBU campaign against frontline cuts in Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service is gaining huge support and the Union is asking Members to make a “final push” in the last 2 weeks of the public consultation.

The campaign has seen FBU members taking to the streets across Devon & Somerset with the public signing petitions in their thousands against the cuts! “Campaign Days” have been taking place in Torquay, Taunton and Plymouth with local Firefighters taking the issues out to the public and explaining why we are so opposed to the planned cuts. The public support has been described as “amazing” and local politicians have also responded to get behind the Union’s campaign.

FBU reps in Taunton and Torquay organised local briefings for politicians in their area and gave the facts about what the cuts would really mean for their communities. Torquay FBU rep Scott Atkins said “we organised a briefing because we wanted local politicians to understand how serious the cuts would be for communities in Torbay. It clearly had an impact and letters are now being sent to the Chair of the Fire Authority. “After the briefing one Councillor was quoted in the press as saying

“they will have blood on their hands if they put cuts through in Torquay!”. In Taunton local FBU rep Wayne Withey said “in our briefing, which was even attended by the Chair of the Fire Authority, we blew the brigade’s figures apart and gave the real facts. After the briefing local councillors expressed their concern that the cuts would lead to slower response times, putting lives at risk.”

The FBU is now calling for a “final push” as the consultation period comes to an end. FBU EC Member Tam McFarlane said “the campaign so far has been fantastic and the figures to date are incredible: we have used over 40,000 leaflets to hand out and gain public support, our electronic/social media campaign has reached over 50,000 people, over 100,000 more have seen our newspaper ads and we have produced special bulletins & organised local and parliamentary lobbies’. The commitment of local members and reps has been second to none and they have shown themselves to be the real champions of the Fire & Rescue Service. Now, with just 2 weeks of the public consultation left, we need a big push from everyone to maximise our public support”!



Fighting for the Fire & Rescue Service



Protecting Firefighters & Control Staff

FBU ADVERTS REACH OVER A HUNDRED



THEY'RE SQUEEZING YOUR FIRE SERVICE DRY

Planned cuts would reduce the amount of full time Fire Crews in Plymouth **by almost half**. Help your local Firefighters – make the politicians think again.

Tell them these cuts are a step too far. Please contact the Consultation Officer in any of the following ways:

Telephone: 01392 872354

Post: Consultation Officer, DSFRS Headquarters,
Clyst St George Exeter, Devon EX3 ONW

Email: ConsultationOfficer@dsfire.gov.uk



SAVE OUR FIRE SERVICE

FIRE BRIGADES UNION • WWW.SOUTHWESTFBU.COM



THEY'RE SQUEEZING YOUR FIRE SERVICE DRY

Planned cuts would reduce full time Fire Crews **by half** at Taunton Fire Station. Help your local Firefighters – make the politicians think again.

Tell them these cuts are a step too far. Please contact the Consultation Officer in any of the following ways:

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As part of the campaign to gain maximum public support the South West FBU organised for adverts to be placed in several widely read local newspapers. The ads appeared in the North Devon Journal (covering Ilfracombe); the Herald Express (covering Torbay); the Evening Herald (covering Plymouth) and the Somerset County Gazette (covering Taunton).

THOUSAND PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLDS!



THEY'RE SQUEEZING YOUR FIRE SERVICE DRY

Planned cuts would reduce full time Fire Crews **by half** at Torquay Fire Station. Help your local Firefighters – make the politicians think again.

Tell them these cuts are a step too far. Please contact the Consultation Officer in any of the following ways:

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Clyst St George Exeter, Devon EX3 0NW

Email: ConsultationOfficer@dsfire.gov.uk



SAVE OUR FIRE SERVICE

FIRE BRIGADES UNION • WWW.SOUTHWESTFBU.COM



THEY'RE SQUEEZING YOUR FIRE SERVICE DRY

Planned cuts would remove full time Fire Crews at Ilfracombe Fire Station **completely**. Help your local Firefighters – make the politicians think again.

Tell them these cuts are a step too far. Please contact the Consultation Officer in any of the following ways:

Telephone: 01392 872354

Post: Consultation Officer, DSFRS Headquarters,
Clyst St George Exeter, Devon EX3 0NW

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The adverts also went out in several "mini" papers and were picked up by other local newspapers and media sites. The estimated reach to members of the public across the two counties and beyond was over 100,000! The timing of the ads was specifically designed to keep the campaign high profile over the full term of the consultation and the ads were designed by a professional team of designers and copywriters to have maximum impact and engagement.

Lobby of Parliament gains “significant support”!



FBU Members in Parliament

Following a recent lobby of Parliament, where FBU members from Devon & Somerset took their fight against frontline cuts in the Fire Service direct to Westminster, the South West FBU has received a statement from Plymouth MP Alison Seabek condemning what she calls "irresponsible cuts".

The cuts would mean that the amount of frontline Firefighters covering Plymouth would be cut almost in half. The City would have 3 Fire Engines, an aerial appliance (which covers vulnerable areas such as Derriford Hospital) and 2 entire Fire Stations downgraded. This would drastically reduce our ability to respond and deal with incidents in the way that we currently do.

In her statement, Alison Seabek, one of Plymouth's local Members of Parliament since 2005, condemns the cuts and calls on the Government to "**urgently change course**". The full statement is laid out below:

Statement to the South West FBU from Alison Seabek MP:

"The public and fire officers are being put at risk as a result of irresponsible cuts being forced on fire authorities across England. We saw the pressure they were under when extreme weather conditions required significant movement of expertise and equipment around the country.

"Many Fire Authorities are struggling and still coming up with ideas designed to save money and save jobs but these options these are being turned down by government ministers.



Alison Seabek MP

"In Devon and Somerset the amount we receive per head and taking into account our rurality issues is well out of sync with monies given to other fire authorities but pleas to government have not resulted in equality of treatment.

"The public have a right to expect protection from properly resourced emergency services. **The Government should urgently change course.**"

Speaking after the lobby FBU Brigade Secretary Trevor French said "we know that there is a significant political element to these cuts and that's why we organised this very important lobby of Parliament. I want to thank all the FBU members who attended, many of whom travelled from afar as Plymouth to fight for the Fire Service.

"The statement from Alison Seabek MP shows the importance of engaging with Members of Parliament and we need every FBU Member to make sure that their local MP is fully briefed about the effect that these cuts will have. Members can meet with individual MPs at their local surgeries and explain the issues involved. If you aren't able to meet with your MP then please write to them or email them.

"with only 2 weeks of the public consultation to go we need to maximize our support and that includes at a political level, **so please contact your MP!**"

FBU SOUTH WEST

FOLLOW THE PROFESSIONALS!

The FBU in the South West is committed to keeping our Members posted about news, updates and the work we are doing on their behalf. By using modern communication tools we can keep you up to date quickly, no matter where you work Follow us on our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube sites and get all the updates as they happen. Full details opposite:



Follow us on our own Facebook page: Go to ***South West Region of the Fire Brigades Union*** and hit the "like" button. You will receive updates on our work and links to how we are fighting for you locally.



Follow us on Twitter at @southwestfbu



Keep up to date with our videos at '***South West FBU***'

You can also follow us on our website at:
www.southwestfbu.com