



*The Premier Trade Union for Professional Firefighters and Emergency Fire Control Staff: July 2014*

## **FIREFIGHTERS STAND STRONG FOR 8 DAYS!**

### **UNION PRAISES MEMBERS FOR DETERMINATION AND UNITY**

FBU members once again stood strong and united in the fight for a fair and achievable pension for firefighters. The action, which consisted of 15 strikes over an 8 day period, saw firefighters receiving overwhelming public support on picket lines and has received praise from FBU leader Matt Wrack who said: "I would like to congratulate all firefighters who are standing up for their future, their family's future and the future of the fire and rescue service by striking over this period. The government needs to come to the table and offer a fair, workable and affordable pension scheme. We will be meeting with the new fire minister, Penny Mordaunt at Westminster, where we hope progress can be made in resolving this dispute."



**Plymouth**

Immediately following the strike action the Union instigated action short of strike action which means that, until further notice, firefighters will not work voluntary overtime, non-contractual overtime or any additional voluntary hours. This is being done to keep the pressure on the Government to resolve the dispute through proper negotiations.

The union's executive council will also be meeting throughout this period to assess the latest developments and consider the next steps in the campaign.

South West Official Tam McFarlane thanked FBU members across the Region, saying: "Once again our members have solidly observed the strike action over the eight days. This has not been easy for them or their families, but everyone is aware of what is at risk here.

Firefighters cannot accept a deal which rips up the pension promises they were given and creates an unaffordable and unworkable pension which takes no account of the real work we do. The unity and dignity of firefighters, who have stood shoulder to shoulder in their fight for fairness, has been inspirational to workers everywhere and our action is clearly having an

impact on the Government, who have already done a U-turn on the 'permanent' withdrawal of the June 2013 offer. We aren't just fighting for ourselves, but also for future generations of firefighters and I have no doubt that they will look back in pride at the legacy of unity, strength and determination that we are continuing."

See the photos of picket lines and demos across the Region in this special bulletin!



***Fighting for the Fire & Rescue Service***

***Protecting Firefighters & Control Staff***

# United & Strong

## Picket lines across the South West



Temple



Marlborough



Cheltenham East



Trowbridge



Stroud



Bridgwater



Greenbank



Weymouth



Swindon



Falmouth



St Austell



Plympton





Springbourne



Salisbury



Crownhill

*Our picket lines were united and strong. Please send any other photos from around the Region to: [southwestfbu@fbu.org.uk](mailto:southwestfbu@fbu.org.uk)*

## PHOTOS FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR RALLIES AROUND THE REGION



Plymouth



Truro



Bristol



Torquay



Exeter



Gloucester



Dorset

## Firefighters' union reacts to appointment of Penny Mordaunt as new Fire Minister



Reacting to the news that Penny Mordaunt has replaced Brandon Lewis as the Westminster fire minister in the Department of Communities and Local Government, Matt Wrack, FBU general secretary, said: "We would like to congratulate

Penny on her appointment and hope we can work constructively with her to resolve ongoing disputes.

"We are in the middle of a long running dispute over proposed pension changes that would see firefighters lose the pensions they were promised and which they have paid for. The government proposals take no account of the real work firefighters do or the real demands and needs of the fire service.

"In particular we hope that a change of personnel will lead to the government finally seeing sense on their pension proposals."

The FBU has already met with Mordaunt, who attended a meeting that had previously been scheduled with Lewis. The General Secretary followed up this meeting by setting out the FBU's position in writing.

### ARE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DETAILS UP TO DATE?

Please ensure that your membership and contact details are up to date. This can be done by logging on to the FBU's Online Membership System at [www.fbu.org.uk](http://www.fbu.org.uk) in the 'Membership' section or by contacting your Brigade Organiser.



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](http://www.southwestfbu.com)

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### FBU SOUTH WEST

The Fire Brigades Union is the premier Trade Union for professional Firefighters and Control Staff across the UK. The South West Region is the largest Region in England and we cover Avon, Cornwall, Dorset, Devon & Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire FRS's.

We represent over 85% of uniformed staff across the UK. Our members cover every role from Firefighter to Area Manager, including the retained duty system. We are committed to protecting our Members, their interests at work and to ensuring that the public receive an excellent and professional Fire & Rescue Service. Join the professionals, contact us at:

