



## UPDATE ON CAMPAIGN IN DEVON AND SOMERSET FBU - Feb 2013

# NO CUTS TO FRONTLINE

The FBU campaign against massive frontline cuts in Devon & Somerset FRS is now in full swing and a number of significant events and dates have been finalised.

The campaign follows the decision of the Fire Authority, at a meeting on Friday 18th of January, to undertake a 12 week public consultation on a series of devastating cuts to the frontline of the Service.

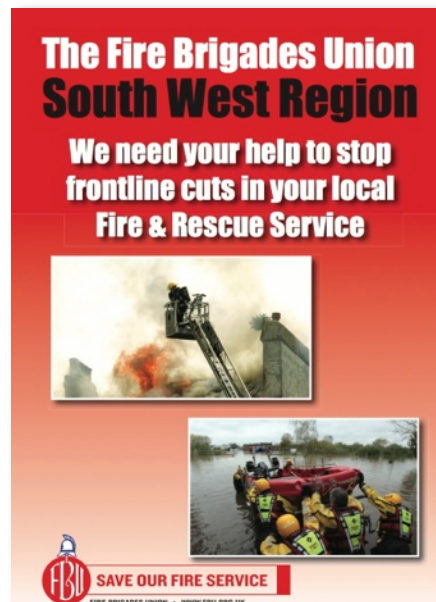
The planned cuts include:

- **Removal of around 150 Whole Time Firefighter Posts (20% of the wholetime workforce);**
- **Downgrading WT cover at Torquay & Taunton by HALF;**
- **Removing 1 WT from Camelshead to make it RDS at Crownhill;**
- **Downgrading the 1 pump WT shift Stations at Plympton and Plymstock to RDS only;**
- **Downgrading the WT Day Crew Station at Ilfracombe to RDS only;**
- **Downgrading the aerial appliance at Crownhill Fire Station to dual crew**

Following the Fire Authority decision, the FBU Brigade Committee held an emergency meeting at Torquay Fire Station and planned a detailed campaign of opposition to the cuts. The Committee, which included Regional Officials, decided on an initial concentrated focus on the consultation process. Our aim is to get as many of the public as possible to register their opposition to cuts in the frontline service.

FBU Officials managed to achieve a very quick turnaround to get thousands of campaign leaflets printed. These are being handed out to members of the public to get our points across. The leaflets have 5 designs specific to local areas:

Plymouth-Taunton-Torquay-Ilfracombe; and one "generic" leaflet which can be used anywhere. The leaflets have been highly effective and have proved so popular that the Union has had to order another complete batch! They are appearing in shop windows, pubs and elsewhere as the public show their massive support.



We have also made use of our social media sites on Twitter - **@SouthWestFBU** and our Facebook site - **South West Region of the Fire Brigades Union**. This has proved very effective with posts achieving incredible support. Some posts have now reached thousands of people.

The Union has also organised a **lobby of Parliament**, and this will take place at the House of Commons on: **Weds 6th March at 2pm**. (see attached poster).

It's vital that every Fire Station is represented and that individual Members of Parliament are lobbied against the cuts. Local Officials will be arranging transport to and from Westminster so please make sure that you come!

The FBU will be submitting **a formal written response** to the consultation and we are currently in the process of collating the technical data to do so. We will be challenging figures used by the service to justify cuts and will be putting forward all the professional arguments against them.

We need all Members to play their part and unite in the campaign against cuts. Attend your local meetings and take part on local campaign days and leafletting events etc. We need to maximise the response to the consultation and then hold politicians to account.

Doing nothing is not an option; join with the FBU and fight for our future. Unity is Strength.

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



***Protecting Firefighters & Control Staff***

## ***FBU RESOLUTION - NO CUTS!***

The FBU Brigade Committee in Devon & Somerset held an emergency meeting shortly after the Fire Authority made its decision to consult on cuts.

At the meeting the Committee unanimously passed a resolution (below) condemning the cuts and pledging to undertake "a campaign of opposition" to them.

We are asking all FBU branches to make sure that they meet regularly and get fully involved in the campaign against cuts.

We need you to help organise and get involved in local "campaign days" where you can tell members of the public what the cuts will actually mean for them and why we, as the professionals in the Service, are so fundamentally opposed to them.

We also need branches to make sure that politicians in the local area are contacted and lobbied with our views on this vital issue. This means local and county councillors as well as Members of Parliament! Please make sure that you attend meetings, keep up to date on developments and get involved in any way that you can.

Contact Your Brigade Rep:

**Brigade Secretary:**

**Trevor French**

[trevor.french@fbu.org.uk](mailto:trevor.french@fbu.org.uk)

**Brigade Chair:**

**Bob Walker**

[bob.walker@fbu.org.uk](mailto:bob.walker@fbu.org.uk)

**Brigade Organiser:**

**Andy Gould**

[andy.gould@fbu.org.uk](mailto:andy.gould@fbu.org.uk)

### ***BRIGADE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION - CORPORATE PLAN***

The Devon & Somerset FBU Brigade Committee condemns the proposed cuts outlined in the draft corporate plan 2013/14 to 2014/15. The Committee regards these cuts in frontline cover as unsafe and dangerous. If implemented, these cuts will compromise the safety of Firefighters' and members of the general public. The Union notes that a 12 week consultation period will run from the 28th January to the 22nd April 2013, however the Union has been informed that no date has yet been set for a final decision to be taken by the Fire Authority.

The Fire Brigades Union will undertake a campaign of opposition to these cuts of which all members will be encouraged to take a full and active part. The Union will submit a detailed response to the consultation and will organise lobbies of Politicians at all levels.

Due to the fundamental nature of these cuts and the level of risk they pose, the Brigade Committee will consider all options, including Industrial Action. Regular branch meetings will now be held across the service and all members are encouraged to attend and have their voice heard on these vital issues.

In the past the service has tried to undermine the FBU by approaching individuals through such means as "expressions of interest". All members should be aware that such tactics have the sole intention of undermining the collective. If any Member is approached in this way they should inform the FBU immediately.



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



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You can also follow us on our website at: [www.southwestfbu.com](http://www.southwestfbu.com)