



FIRE BRIGADES UNION

TAM MCFARLANE
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Dear MP,

Re: FIRE SERVICE PENSIONS: SECOND READING OF THE PENSIONS BILL

I am writing to you in my position as the senior official of The Fire Brigades Union within the South West Region. I want to leave you in no doubt as to the anger felt by Firefighters across the South West, including within your own constituency, regarding the ongoing and disgraceful attack on our pensions. The Government proposals on Fire Service pensions, if implemented, would mean increasing Firefighters retirement age, cutting their pension provision, and upping their pension contributions.

Firefighters believe these proposals to be totally unjust and see them as a further attack on their profession when they are already facing massive cuts in the frontline service. These proposals appear to ignore the points that Firefighters already pay some of the highest contribution rates in any sector and that Fire Service pensions underwent a major reform and "modernisation" only a few years ago.

I have previously written to you and informed you that FBU members across the South West have been contacting the Union and expressing their opposition and condemnation of the attacks on our pensions which will mean that Firefighters will have to pay more, work longer and get less. There appears to be absolutely no recognition by the Government of the dangerous and physically demanding nature of a Firefighters role or the massive personal financial contribution that our Members make towards their pension.

The second reading of the Public Sector Pensions Bill takes place on the 29th October and I understand that there will be a debate on this matter. I am asking that you take part in this debate and support the position taken by the Fire Brigades Union on this matter. In order to explain our position in detail please find enclosed a briefing note/bulletin which has been prepared by the FBU and explains the specific challenges associated with firefighting and why the Government's proposals remain totally unworkable and therefore unacceptable to the professionals within the Fire & Rescue Service.

I am asking you to give your support to the Firefighters within your constituency by urging the Government not to implement these damaging changes to our Members pensions. Such changes are detrimental and will have a negative impact not just on individuals but on the Fire Service as a whole

Yours sincerely,

T MCFARLANE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER
FBU SOUTH WEST

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