

We didn't cause this crisis – we should not have to pay the price for it

Join the campaign

- The budget deficit is high because the economy went into recession in 2008. The collapse in tax revenue is the problem, not public spending. Cutting public spending now will make the economy stagnate – and make the deficit worse.
- Resources are available to fund public services – investment is the answer – not cuts and austerity.
- Multinational corporations and hyper-rich individuals evade and avoid tax in the UK to the tune of £120bn. Those who caused the crisis should pay for the recovery.

The fire and rescue service faces a critical time and the FBU – the only organisation that can be trusted to defend it – is at the forefront of the campaign, making the argument that enough is enough.

The government's cuts agenda needs to be challenged.

What you can do now:

- Ensure your branch discusses this bulletin and resolves to get involved.
- Take our message out to the local labour movement and the community.
- Write to your local newspaper.
- Lobby your local councillors.
- Write to your MP.

FIRE BRIGADES UNION



10 reasons to DEMONSTRATE on 26 March

WESTMINSTER GOVERNMENT WANTS CUTS OF 25%

DEFEND OUR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

“NO TO CUTS – THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE”

Come to the TUC demonstration on Saturday 26 March to say:
“We won't let our fire and rescue service be destroyed”



10 reasons to be on the demonstration on 26 March

Some fire services face a 9.5% cut to their central grant next year. The government wants a 25% cut for all in four years. These cuts will cost lives.

Here are 10 reasons to come on the national demonstration against the cuts

Hands off our pensions

1. The Westminster government plans to increase pension contributions in all public sector pension schemes including the FPS, NFPS and LGPS. For most FBU members this would mean a rise from 11% to 14% – a 29% increase. For most firefighters this means at least **£700 per year**.
2. Plans for career average schemes and higher (tiered) contributions for higher earners will hit officer members even harder.

3. They also intend to increase retirement age for the majority. Instead we should be **reducing** retirement age for those in the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (NFPS).

Stop the cuts

4. No to cuts in firefighter jobs. Over three-quarters of fire service budgets are spent on firefighters. The service is already down to the marrow. Cuts of this scale **would put thousands of firefighter jobs at risk** over the next four years.
5. The cuts agenda will mean even more attacks on local conditions of service as local employers seek to balance their budgets. That will mean more attacks on shifts/duty systems and other local conditions of service.



6. The cuts agenda means we face another vicious round of cuts in the service, station closures, scrapping pumps and specials, reduction of cover at night – all in order to achieve the centrally driven cuts.

No pay freeze – defend living standards

7. No to the pay freeze. We have had no pay rise this year. The government wants our pay frozen again. With inflation at 5% and the cost of living for basics like food and fuel spiralling, our standard of living is under serious attack.
8. The increase in VAT and other government tax and benefit measures will cost working families **£1,500 a year**.



Defend our service – defend our profession

9. Cuts have already slowed response times. Since 1996 response times have slowed from an average of 5.5 minutes to 7.3 minutes. Crewing, shift patterns and night cover are under threat. This is bad for firefighters and bad for the public. **The fire service is an outstanding public service – don't let them wreck it.**
10. No to privatisation. Profiteering vultures like AssetCo are circling the fire service. This government is introducing the market into the heart of the NHS and education, selling off everything in sight. Stop these asset-strippers – defend our fire and rescue service.

“We won't let our fire and rescue service be destroyed”