



Fire Brigades Union - South West Region



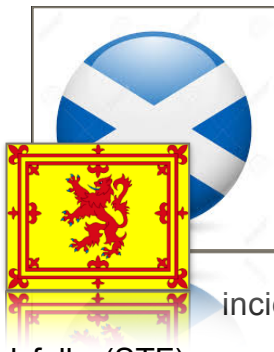
Avon - Cornwall - Devon & Somerset - Gloucestershire - Dorset & Wiltshire

The Premier Trade Union for Professional Firefighters and Emergency Fire Control Staff: 03/2020

SCOTTISH PAY OFFER - REJECTED

FBU members in Scotland have rejected the "Scottish pay offer for broadening the role" by a margin of 60% to 40% on an 81% turnout. Members have been clear that they rejected the offer as it would have led to them taking on significant areas of work in health and social care which includes work that is not of an emergency nature. Co-responding to non-

OHCA+ would require firefighters to attend incidents that the Scottish Ambulance Service have deemed as an immediate threat to life which would include shouts to allergic reactions, burns, breathing difficulties including choking, drowning, chest pain, seizures, unresponsive patients, trauma and haemorrhage. Members have seen OHCA+ as unachievable within a firefighters role and entirely unrealistic.



emergency incidents such as slips, trips and falls (STF) may have taken firefighters away from responding to emergency incidents. STF is incompatible with the firefighters role and is work firefighters should not be expanding into. Firefighters would have been used to make up short-falls in the underfunded health and social care sector plus Co-responding would have added pressure to an already over-stretched service. During the ballot process, members also raised serious concerns over "Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest

Members were also underwhelmed by the additional pay that was being offered for broadening the role. This was a multi year offer (2019-2022,) that would only have taken a competent wholtime firefighter basic salary to £35,734.00 by July 2022. Additional Responsible Allowances would also have been lost but this work would have become a contractual requirement. Now it is hoped that the Scottish employers return to the negotiating table to work on a deal that is acceptable to all sides.

Fighting for the Fire & Rescue Service



Protecting Firefighters & Control Staff

GRENFELL PHASE 1 & 2 UPDATE

Phase 1 - The FBU welcomes the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (GTI) phase 1 report. The bereaved, survivors and residents (BSRs) - as well as firefighters- have waited too long for an official report into the fire. The union commends the GTI for the dignified treatment of those who have died or who lost loved ones. The FBU welcomes the recommendation and will work with other interested parties to ensure they are implemented swiftly. There are many practical matters to be resolved, which the union is committed to assist with.

The FBU's detailed response Grenfell phase one report can be found following this link;

<https://www.fbu.org.uk/publication/fbu-response-grenfell-tower-inquiry-phase-1-report>

Phase 2 - This phase started with a rush of accusations, multiple leaked emails, finger pointing and witness's applying to claim "privilege against self-incrimination" to protect themselves from the prospect of prosecution.

Michael Mansfield QC, representing one of the groups of bereaved and survivors, told the inquiry the application was "totally without merit" and urged Moore-Bick not to endorse it. He also urged the corporates to reconsider "whether they really want to put the families through more anguish, more agony". This application was granted much to the anger of the BSRs.

The GTI has been told that engineers set out to "massage" fire safety plan, Studio E Architects "was not experienced in over cladding a residential tower block" and the architect of the refurbishment admitted they did not read building regulations aimed at preventing cladding fires and had no idea panels used to insulate buildings could be combustible. All totally unbelievable. This phase is expected to continue into the middle of 2021 and the FBU will be attend each day of the GTI until this phase closes.



Region 12 Update

New Regional Secretary

Since our last bulletin, Guy Herrington has been elected as your new regional secretary. Guy's election has left the regional chair position vacant and nominations for this role close on the 15th March. Guy's contact details are;
Mobile 07870250297



New B&EMM Rep

Due to retirement, Enrico Temple will be leaving the fire service at the end of March, we wish Rico a long and healthy retirement and thank him for all his work he has undertaken on behalf of B&EMM members over many years. Due to Rico's retirement the Regional Committee has agreed that Lionel McCrea would be our new B&EMM rep. We all welcome Lionel to the committee and his contact details are;
Mobile 07979225092
Email LionelMcCrea@fbu.org.uk



AVON

Following the completion of the nomination process both Gary Spindler and Steve McGreavy have accepted their nominations. So Gary has been re-elected to the role of Brigade Secretary



Plus Steve has been re-elected to the role of Brigade Chair.



THE BACK PAGE - CORONAVIRUS

Coronavirus

To date, country seems to be in the grip of coronavirus and we are all unsure how this will play out over the coming months.

The NJC have issued one circular on this matter NJC 01/20 which states;

Novel Coronavirus: COVID-19

1. *The situation in respect of Coronavirus continues to evolve.*

2. *Sources of information include:*

- *England - Government advice is being updated regularly and Public Health England misaddressing common questions on its blog. The LGA has created a webpage that collates useful information for councils and fire authorities including links to national advice, answers to common questions and campaign materials from PHE.*
- *Scotland - NHS Inform*
- *Wales - Public Health Wales*
- *Northern Ireland - Public health agency*

3, *A UK-wide public information campaign has been launched to advise the public on how to slow the spread of coronavirus and reduce the impact on NHS service.*

4. *We also remind you of the provision set out in the Grey Book AT section 5, Part B, para 34, as follows-*

In the case of contact with infectious or there diseases the employee should not stay away from duty if he or she feels well but should report the fact to the appropriate person in the fire and rescue authority. An employee who is prevented from attending work because of contact with an infectious disease shall be entitled to full sick pay and the period of absence on this account shall not be reckoned against the employees entitlement to sick pay .

5. *In the event that an employee is required to self-isolate or is placed in quarantine, the provision above should be applied.*

FURTHER TO THIS THE FBU HAS ISSUED THIS ADVICE

Therefore, the FBU has concluded that, in the interests of public health and public safety, all fire and rescue services should cease all outside activities other than emergency response unless there is an immediate or imminent safety imperative to undertake an inspection or other such engagement. An example of such an immediate imperative would be to investigate a report of fire escape doors or routes being 'locked or blocked'.

The FBU believes that all fire and rescue services should take this step immediately.

