



## 8 Days of United Action Strengthens Pension Fight!



Firefighters in the South West once again joined with colleagues across England & Wales in 8 further days of consecutive strike action in the fight for fair pensions. Following the action, which took place between the 9th and 16th of August, there has been new developments with a meeting between the Union and Fire Minister Penny Mordaunt on 22nd August. Further urgent meetings are now being sought as the minister stated she was taking “soundings” on pension issues from colleagues and, in a subsequent open letter to all firefighters, confirmed that she is now considering a number of issues and undertaking work which should be complete by the week commencing 8th September.

The aim of the next set of discussions is, the Union says, to clarify if “the positive words in her letters are a genuine attempt to move things forward or are simply some sort of delaying tactic”. In a circular to members Matt Wrack, FBU general secretary, wrote: “In neither

case is she clear or explicit about what work is being undertaken, which colleagues are being sounded out, or about what.

“Clearly that position would be unsatisfactory if it were to continue.

“The Union has agreed to seek a further urgent meeting with the minister with a view to clarifying what work she has commissioned, what issues she is considering and discussing with colleagues.

“In those discussion we shall seek a report on the actual progress she has made in these issues.”

Praising the region’s Firefighters for their recent action, South West FBU rep Tam McFarlane said “FBU members in this Region should be justifiably proud of the dignity, unity and strength they displayed as they stood together over the recent 8 days of action. Of course no Firefighter wants to strike, but it is now crystal clear to everyone that we have no choice but to fight for fair pensions now and for future generations of Firefighters. The unity FBU members have displayed is the only real strength in today’s Fire Service; and the legacy you are fighting for will be looked on with pride by future generations.

In this “picket line special” we have published some of the several hundred photos we have received from FBU picket lines across the South West. If you have some that aren’t here, you can send them to us at [southwestfbu@fbu.org.uk](mailto:southwestfbu@fbu.org.uk) and we will share them via our Facebook and twitter sites.

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



***Protecting Firefighters  
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Falmouth



Salisbury



Redhill



Poole



St Austell



## **Fire Minister Launches Attack on Conditions!**



The FBU has slammed a so-called “Independent Review of Firefighter Conditions of Service” which the Union says is nothing but an “attack on national bargaining arrangements and a prelude to further attacks on pay and other conditions of service.”

It's clear from reports across the country that FBU members have very significant concerns about the review, its aims and timing. These concerns are well founded and the Union is alerting all members to some of the risks involved. These include:

***The review is not independent:*** Terms of reference have been set by DCLG; The staff for the review come from DCLG; and there has been NO CONSULTATION with anyone actually involved in the Fire Service!

***Firefighters do not work for central government:*** Our terms & conditions are determined by the National Joint Council (NJC), NOT the Government!

***The review is clearly about pay & pension rights:*** Despite a claim by Penny Mordaunt that the review “will not look at pay or pensions”, this is clearly contradicted by the terms of reference!

The Union is also advising members to NOT COOPERATE with a rushed survey that is being sent out to firefighters. This survey, which is not independent, has clearly been drawn up with a view to achieving a pre-determined outcome and we are therefore advising members not to cooperate with it or complete or return it!

### **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)

## **Contact Your Rep:**

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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:

