



Matt Wrack General Secretary
Bradley House, 68 Coombe Road,
Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7AE
fbu.org.uk | @fbunational
020 8541 1765 | office@fbu.org.uk

*Our reference: 20240510 – Keir Starmer
By email only*

Keir Starmer
Leader of the Labour Party
keir.starmer.mp@parliament.uk
leader@labour.org.uk

10/05/2024

Dear Keir,

Anti-union laws: position of Natalie Elphicke

The Minimum Service Levels Act is one of the most vicious attacks on workers in living memory. It is an attempt to ban effective strike action in the fire and rescue service and across a large proportion of the public sector.

Labour's pledge to repeal this authoritarian legislation within 100 days of taking office, alongside the 2016 Trade Union Act, is a crucial commitment.

It is therefore alarming that Natalie Elphicke has been admitted to the Parliamentary Labour Party. Her hard right stance on immigration and her breaching of the MPs' code of conduct are already well-known.

The FBU has now discovered that Elphicke was a cheerleader for the Minimum Service Levels Act, and has specifically targeted firefighters in her contributions in parliament.

On Tuesday 12 March this year, she spoke in support of the new anti-union laws by blaming striking firefighters for the deaths of three people during a past national firefighters' strike.

This is a disgraceful attack on firefighters, who protect the public and save lives every day, sometimes at great personal cost.

The FBU fights for public safety, as well as the health and safety of firefighters, by fighting for the resources, standards and accountability the fire and rescue service needs. We are the only organisation to do this consistently.

The Labour Party is the political wing of the labour movement. It exists to fight for the interests of working people in parliament.

Attacking trade union members in this way to justify support for draconian anti-worker laws ought to be incompatible with membership of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Natalie Elphicke should never have been given the Labour whip, but these remarks further undermine the decision to accept her into the party. There appears to have been little, if any, due diligence.

I write to place this objection on record. The FBU will raise our concerns regarding these comments and Natalie Elphicke's admission to the PLP through the channels as an affiliated union.

We look forward to a Labour government repealing the recent anti-union laws within 100 days of taking office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Wrack', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Wrack
General Secretary
Fire Brigades Union