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2023/NJC/MW

06 December 2023

By email: Sarah.Ward@local.gov.uk

Ms S Ward
Employers' Side Secretary, National Joint Council
18 Smith Square,
Westminster, London SW1P 3HZ

Dear Sarah

The Fire Brigades Union seeks to immediately commence discussions on pay for the settlement due on 1 July 2024. We hope that these discussions will be concluded in good time to ensure that Grey Book employees can be paid the new rates of pay from 1 July 2024. The delay in the settlement of pay for 2022 caused our members considerable hardship and in the coming talks we want to ensure this is avoided.

At the National Joint Council, the FBU has regularly set out our concerns regarding pay. Years of austerity have resulted in falling real wages for firefighters. There is an urgent need to address this issue as part of the pay settlement for 2024. We seek a settlement which addresses these concerns.

The settlement on pay for 2022 and 2023 was a result of intense negotiation at the NJC. Despite the numerous challenges, we were able to achieve a resolution acceptable to both sides. The agreement meant that strike action was avoided. This demonstrated the value of collective bargaining and the success of the NJC and its processes.

The settlement achieved in 2023 (for 2022 and 2023) also included the agreement of mechanisms to consider various other pay related issues. We are aware that these processes have not been concluded, nor do we have reports from them yet. Nevertheless, the issues identified remain unresolved and we hope that talks will identify solutions.

We look forward to commencing these discussions promptly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Wrack", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Matt Wrack
General Secretary

MW/jr