



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 Ref: MW/jh

Letter sent by email to:

28 April 2023

Dear Mark,

Resisting the Minimum Service Levels Bill

As a Labour-affiliated union, the Fire Brigades Union looks to your government as a bulwark to defend our members' rights in Wales against the Tories' anti-worker agenda.

The Minimum Service Levels Bill is an authoritarian attempt to effectively outlaw strikes in many sectors, including the Fire and Rescue Service. It is extremely welcome that the government has suffered a number of defeats on amendments in the House of Lords, although we will need to consider how they will now respond.

It is positive that the Senedd has already expressed its opposition to the legislation by withholding legislative consent.

As you will be aware, Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf has pledged that the Scottish Government "will never issue or enforce a single work notice" under the new laws.

The FBU is seeking an equivalent commitment from the devolved administration you lead in Cardiff. **I am therefore asking you to confirm that the Welsh Government will not issue a work notice in any area devolved to it.**

Defeating the Tories' anti-workers agenda is not just about Westminster and the courts. A strategy of non-cooperation and non-compliance could make it inoperable. The Welsh Government, working alongside trade unions, local government and some employers, could raise the possibility of defeating this undemocratic legislation.

The policy areas of health and education, as well as most powers over the emergency services are of course devolved to the Senedd. The UK Government has made it clear that it is targeting workers in these key sectors with this pernicious legislation.

The Welsh Government's active resistance to this assault on the democratic rights of working people could be decisive in making the legislation inoperable. It would be an unprecedented attack on devolution for UK ministers to impose work notices in any disputes in devolved areas.

As General Secretary of the FBU, I would be delighted to meet you. A Welsh Government led summit, involving the Wales TUC and representatives of its affiliated unions could be an important first step in launching a united campaign of resistance against the legislation.

The launch of such a forum would also allow unions and your government to formulate a specific framework for how the bill can be resisted in Wales.

Yours sincerely

Matt Wrack
General Secretary