



VOTE YES

FBU POLITICAL FUND BALLOT

2 - 29 APRIL 2024



THE FBU POLITICAL FUND BALLOT EXPLAINED



This ballot is about whether firefighters, control room staff and other fire and rescue service employees continue to get a voice in politics through the FBU.

Politics is at the heart of everything the FBU does — and has been for as long as the fire and rescue service has existed. As a public service, **politicians** decide on our pay, pensions and jobs.

At a local or national level, politicians make crucial decisions affecting our working lives. They set funding, allocate resources and decide how our service is run.

We are also affected by wider **political** decisions on:

- Health and safety
- Pensions
- Equalities
- Compensation for death or injury
- Employment rights

As you might expect, the Westminster government doesn't like trade unions campaigning effectively and holding them to account on issues like this. And previous governments have legislated to make it harder. Under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, unions must hold a vote every 10 years asking members whether they can spend money on 'political objects' (or whether their 'political fund' can continue).

Without a political fund, much of the FBU's work would not be possible. Many of the campaigns we've fought — and many of the improvements we have achieved — have only been possible because of the political fund.



As the last vote was in 2014, FBU members must vote again.
Make sure your ballot is in the post to arrive by 29 April.

Dear Brother/Sister,

Since 2010, one in five firefighter jobs have been lost, and pay has been squeezed. Our pensions have been attacked. Response times are worse than ever, and some fire services are experimenting with crews of three. The UK is decades behind other countries in dealing with toxic fire contaminants. Progress on equalities has stalled. A lack of building regulation puts the lives of firefighters and residents at risk, as the Grenfell Tower fire tragically demonstrated.

These problems are not like the weather. They are the result of decisions by governments and politicians at local and national levels.

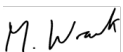
To stand up for firefighters and the communities we serve, the FBU must campaign politically. Our pay campaign was a huge exercise of collective strength. The result was a pay rise of 7% plus 5% for 2022-24. Our fight on pensions has won major concessions. Our Decon campaign is saving lives and protecting firefighters from contaminants. We have now launched Equality Matters to lead the fight against discrimination, bullying and harassment in the fire service, and have begun to win major improvements to maternity pay.

The strength of the FBU is in our members. Lobbying is not a substitute for organising in your workplace. But without doing political work, and spending money on it, none of our campaigns would be possible.

This year will likely see a general election and a change of government. This gives us a big opportunity to fight for better funding, fair pay and a seat at the table for firefighters – as we set out in the Firefighters' Manifesto. To make progress, we must renew our Political Fund.

Please vote Yes, and encourage all your colleagues to do the same.

Yours in unity,



Matt Wrack
FBU General Secretary



**VOTE YES ON YOUR
BALLOT PAPER**



1

LOBBIES OF POLITICIANS

Rallies at Westminster for pay, and regular lobbying of politicians for our demands.

2

PAY AND PENSIONS

Without the FBU's campaigns, firefighters' conditions would be far worse.

3

CUTS AND PRIVATISATION

Protests, letters and other initiatives to fight job cuts and privatisation.

4

CAMPAIGNING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

To oppose all anti-union laws and defend collective bargaining.

5

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Making the case on DECON, breathing apparatus, mental health and more.

6

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Learning from international firefighter unions and showing solidarity across the globe.

8

TRADE SECTIONS

Campaigning for the rights of officers, retained and control members.

7

EQUALITY MATTERS

Fighting discrimination and harassment, and winning 52 weeks' paid maternity leave.

9

COMMUNICATIONS

Reports, submissions, briefings, social media and more to get our message across.

10

GENERAL ELECTION

An organised political voice to fight for the NHS, welfare state and the fire service.

10 REASONS WHY FIREFIGHTERS NEED THE FBU'S POLITICAL FUND