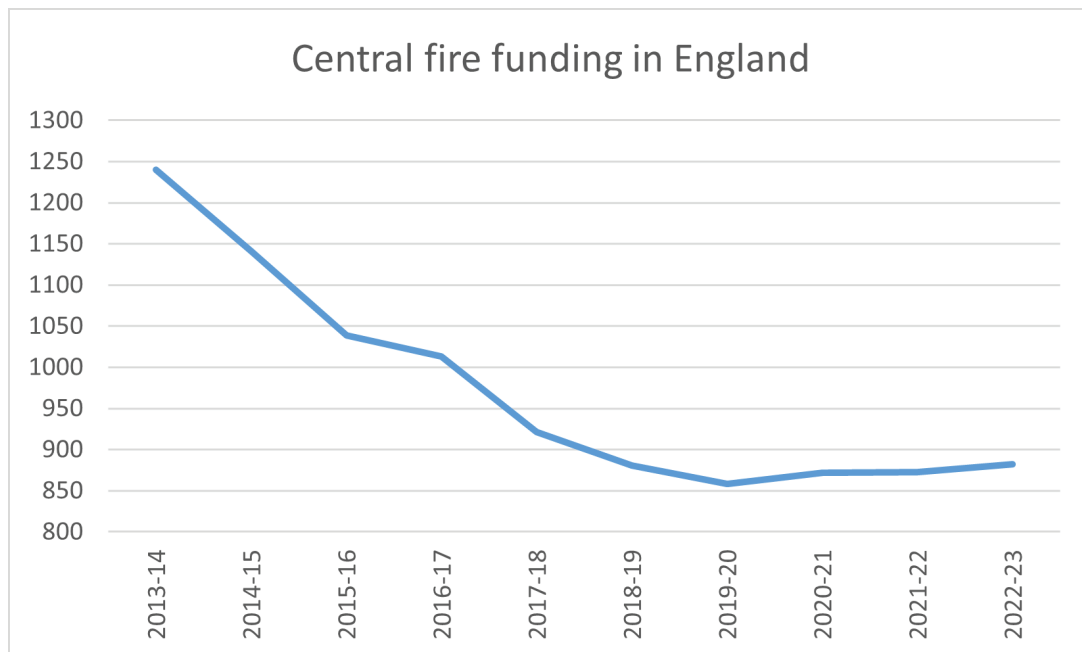


# FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE MATTERS

A PARLIAMENTARY BULLETIN FOR MPS FROM THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION | FEBRUARY 2022

## NO LEVELLING UP FOR THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



On 8 February, the new Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities confirmed its local government finance settlement for the financial year 2022-23. The FBU remains concerned that, while there is a small uplift of 1%, this represents a further cut in real terms and does nothing to remedy the years of cuts the fire and rescue service has suffered. There is no extra funding to level up for firefighters and our communities.

Central funding for fire and rescue services in England has been increased by £9.1m, bringing the total to £882m. However, in 2013-14, the service received £1,240m. This settlement means brigades in England have experienced central government funding cuts of 29% overall since 2013, and several are struggling to meet costs.

The Bank of England has warned that as we emerge from the pandemic, workers across the UK face the steepest drop in living standards in

30 years due to the cost of living crisis. Inflation is already more than 5% and expected to rise throughout the next year. Firefighters also face a real terms pay cut, despite tremendous work throughout the pandemic.

The brigades facing the worst cuts are Oxfordshire, Surrey, Warwickshire and West Sussex. This is because these councils have agreed with ministers to reduce their central funding in order to keep more locally raised revenue. However in the context of the pandemic, where local council tax and business rates have reduced sharply, much of this anticipated revenue may have disappeared.

Firefighters are rightly worried about the financial squeeze ahead. These small and below inflation increases mean further austerity in the fire and rescue service. The FBU wants MPs at Westminster to demand better.

|    | Fire authority              | Change 2016-17 to 2022-23 (£m) | Change 2016-17 to 2022-23 (%) | Change 2021-22 to 2022-23 (£m) | Change 2021-22 to 2022-23 (%) |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3  | Cleveland                   | -1.4                           | -8.7%                         | +0.2                           | +1.1%                         |
| 3  | Durham                      | -1.6                           | -13.0%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 3  | Northumberland              | -0.9                           | -13.5%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 3  | Tyne and Wear               | -2.6                           | -9.5%                         | +0.3                           | +1.1%                         |
| 4  | Humberside                  | -2.3                           | -10.3%                        | +0.2                           | +1.1%                         |
| 4  | North Yorkshire             | -1.7                           | -16.6%                        | +0.1                           | +0.9%                         |
| 4  | South Yorkshire             | -2.7                           | -10.0%                        | +0.3                           | +1.1%                         |
| 4  | West Yorkshire              | -4.4                           | -10.1%                        | +0.4                           | +1.1%                         |
| 5  | Cheshire                    | -2.4                           | -15.2%                        | +0.1                           | +0.9%                         |
| 5  | Cumbria                     | -1.4                           | -14.3%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 5  | Greater Manchester          | -5.2                           | -9.2%                         | +0.6                           | +1.1%                         |
| 5  | Lancashire                  | -3.1                           | -11.1%                        | +0.3                           | +1.1%                         |
| 5  | Merseyside                  | -3.2                           | -9.3%                         | +0.3                           | +1.1%                         |
| 6  | Derbyshire                  | -2.1                           | -13.8%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 6  | Leicestershire              | -1.9                           | -12.5%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 6  | Lincolnshire                | -1.5                           | -13.2%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 6  | Northamptonshire            | -1.5                           | -16.3%                        | +0.1                           | +0.9%                         |
| 6  | Nottinghamshire             | -2.3                           | -12.4%                        | +0.2                           | +1.0%                         |
| 7  | Hereford and Worcester      | -1.8                           | -19.0%                        | +0.1                           | +0.8%                         |
| 7  | Shropshire                  | -1.2                           | -19.1%                        | +0.04                          | +0.8%                         |
| 7  | Staffordshire               | -2.3                           | -13.7%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 7  | Warwickshire                | -2.9                           | -40.8%                        | 0.0                            | 0.0                           |
| 7  | West Midlands               | -5.1                           | -8.7%                         | +0.6                           | +1.1%                         |
| 9  | Bedfordshire                | -1.9                           | -18.2%                        | +0.1                           | +0.9%                         |
| 9  | Cambridgeshire              | -1.7                           | -15.6%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 9  | Essex                       | -4.1                           | -13.8%                        | +0.3                           | +1.0%                         |
| 9  | Hertfordshire               | -4.1                           | -24.7%                        | +0.1                           | +0.7%                         |
| 9  | Norfolk                     | -1.9                           | -13.7%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 9  | Suffolk                     | -1.5                           | -15.6%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 10 | London                      | -19.7                          | -8.4%                         | +2.4                           | +1.1%                         |
| 11 | East Sussex                 | -2.2                           | -16.6%                        | +0.1                           | +0.9%                         |
| 11 | Kent                        | -4.0                           | -15.7%                        | +0.2                           | +0.9%                         |
| 11 | Surrey                      | -6.1                           | -34.3%                        | 0.0                            | 0.0%                          |
| 11 | West Sussex                 | -4.3                           | -43.9%                        | 0.0                            | 0.0%                          |
| 12 | Berkshire                   | -1.9                           | -15.4%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 12 | Buckinghamshire             | -1.6                           | -17.3%                        | +0.1                           | +0.9%                         |
| 12 | Hampshire and Isle of Wight | -4.1                           | -14.2%                        | +0.3                           | +1.0%                         |
| 12 | Oxfordshire                 | -3.2                           | -38.2%                        | 0.0                            | 0.0%                          |
| 13 | Avon                        | -2.4                           | -13.0%                        | +0.2                           | +1.0%                         |
| 13 | Cornwall                    | -1.8                           | -13.4%                        | +0.1                           | +1.0%                         |
| 13 | Devon and Somerset          | -4.3                           | -16.1%                        | +0.2                           | +0.9%                         |
| 13 | Dorset and Wiltshire        | -3.2                           | -18.1%                        | +0.1                           | +0.8%                         |
| 13 | Gloucestershire             | -1.3                           | -17.8%                        | +0.1                           | +0.9%                         |
|    | England                     | -130.9                         | -12.9%                        | +8.8                           | +1.0%                         |