



PARLIAMENTARY LOBBY | 29 NOVEMBER 2016

GIVE THE FBU A ROLE IN SETTING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Firefighting is a **profession**. It is highly skilled work, requiring highly trained and motivated professionals to carry out irreplaceable work in our communities.

Professional standards are crucial for a world class fire and rescue service. Professional standards are vital to improve **public safety**, make the fire and rescue service accountable and ensure the service can respond to all hazards and emergencies.

Professional standards are critical for **firefighter safety**, training and equipment.

Since 2004, professional standards have diminished in the fire and rescue service:

- The fire inspectorate was abolished in England and Wales
- The **Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council** (CFBAC) – the body dealing with professional standards and guidance was scrapped
- **National standards of fire cover** – with clear response times for fires was abolished.

The Westminster government says a **fire inspectorate** in England will help, however inspectors will need professional standards to assess services properly.

The Westminster government says CFA is producing **professional standards**. The FBU must be given a place at the table in any forum producing professional standards.

There is a postcode lottery, **local attendance standards** vary widely across the UK and

response times have been slower across the board for many years. The FBU wants robust and consistent standards in place for critical incidents whenever people live.

Firefighters carry out over 40,000 **rescues** a year – more than 100 a day. This includes rescues at fires, road traffic collisions, floods and a **wide range of other incidents**. Firefighters are also currently involved in emergency medical response trials.

The FBU wants **professional standards** for the new areas of responsibility, to protect the public and to keep firefighters safe.

Over the last decade, the fire and rescue service has faced terrible cuts. This has led to nearly 10,000 fewer firefighters across the UK, 16% less than in 2010, or nearly one-in-six **firefighter jobs** lost.

AREA	JOB LOSSES (2010-16)
ENGLAND	8156
SCOTLAND	949
WALES	461
NI	141
UK	9707

The FBU believes the Westminster government should invest in the fire and rescue service.