

FEBRUARY 2026

RED NOTICE



General secretary's comment

The Cuts Kill campaign is building real momentum, with firefighters across the country ready to defend the future of our service.

Last week's Oxford solidarity event showed the strength and unity of members confronting yet more frontline cuts. No one is willing to stand by while stations, jobs and communities are put at risk.

This moment demands every member gets active. Join the all-member meeting on 23 February and add your voice to the fight ahead.



FBU reps from across the UK came together in Oxford on 11 February, standing shoulder to shoulder with firefighters resisting cuts.

Reps heard powerful testimony from firefighters in Oxfordshire, Dorset and Wiltshire, Avon and Leicestershire about the fight to defend stations, roles, and frontline resources.

The day ended with a march to Oxfordshire County Council and Rewley Road Fire Station, one of the stations facing closure.

FBU challenges "lifestyle factors" in toxic exposure report

The FBU has criticised a London Assembly report on fire contaminants which controversially includes recommendations on "lifestyle changes" to prevent cancer and other diseases. The union has rejected these claims, demanding urgent action on monitoring, prevention and proper compensation.

Dorset and Wiltshire firefighters rally to stop station closures

Around 70 Dorset and Wiltshire firefighters gathered outside the fire authority meeting on 10 February, opposing plans to close eight fire stations. Despite more than 10,000 petition signatures in opposition, the authority voted to proceed with a public consultation on the proposed cuts.

BUILD YOUR UNION

Cuts Kill: all-member meeting rearranged

Join the online meeting at 6pm on 23 February and get involved in fighting for our service. Register here:
<https://streamyard.com/watch/JWwZPgGp8pJj>

Cuts Kill: Write to your MP

Write to your MP and tell them stop the cuts, save our service – write to them here:
<https://fbu.write.mp/campaigns/cuts-kill-mp>

Support campaigns against local cuts

Support firefighters facing cuts by getting involved in campaigning actions -
<https://www.fbu.org.uk/local-campaigns>

SCOTTISH FIREFIGHTERS WARN FUNDING GAP COULD LEAD TO 500 ROLES CUT

Firefighters have warned that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service might have to reduce its workforce by another 500 firefighters over the next three years to balance the budget.

The service is facing a £6m budget shortfall for 2026/27 and flat cash settlements until 2029 under the Scottish Government's spending proposals. The FBU has warned that any compulsory redundancies will lead to strike action.

Hundreds sign petition against station cuts in Buckinghamshire

An FBU petition opposing plans to cut Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service has passed 500 signatures. Firefighters warn that removing seven fire engines and closing two stations will slow response times and increase risk.

Members are also urging the fire authority to drop proposals expanding the chief fire officer's powers, arguing they undermine transparency and accountability.



Union raises alarm over Sizewell C fire station deal

Sizewell C, a major nuclear power plant under construction on the Suffolk coast, has approached the service with plans to fund a new 24/7 fire station inside its compound, with the engine expected to respond only on-site.

The FBU has warned that this risks privatisation and experienced firefighters leaving the service. A Suffolk all-members meeting will be called soon to discuss next steps.



Key dates for your diary

- **23 February**
Cuts Kill: all member briefing
- **24 February**
Cuts Kill: Parliamentary launch
- **28 March**
Together Alliance march, London



Education events

- **25-27 February**
Employment Law in Practice – open for applications
- **3-5 March**
Health Safety and Welfare (Accident Investigation) - open for applications

