

JULY 2026

RED NOTICE



General secretary's comment

Members will soon receive the results of this year's pay offer ballot. The Executive Council has recommended acceptance, but the decision belongs to members. With hot weather and increased operational demand across the UK, we are again seeing the consequences of austerity. Firefighters are being asked to do more with less. We need proper funding and resources immediately. The political debate is shifting. After years of cuts, there is a real opportunity to make the case for stronger public services and fairer funding. The FBU will keep organising and campaigning for pay reform and investment in fire services.



Firefighters walked with survivors and locals to honour the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire on the ninth anniversary of the tragedy. In respect for the 72 people who perished in the blaze, crews from across London Fire Brigade, lined up with helmets at their feet. FBU general secretary Steve Wright, who attended the event, said: *"Still no justice. We renew our call for accountability."*

Pay Reform

The UK FRS pay structure needs overhauling. Over the past 12 months, senior officials have met with national employers to press the case for pay reform.

We are now in intense negotiations for the next 6 months to ensure suitable outcomes that improve our pay structure and provide clarity of roles in 2027. Members will rightly expect an increase in their pay.

The union will be conducting member meetings over the coming months. Look out for further information in due course.

UK Firefighters Health Concordat

The UK Firefighters Health Concordat, announced in April, must become more than another talking shop. The FBU will press for meaningful action on firefighter health, including recognition of occupational cancers through health monitoring and, ultimately, presumptive legislation. We'll continue ensuring firefighters' voices shape the concordat from the outset and hold government and employers to the commitments they make.

BUILD YOUR UNION

GET BALLOT READY

Has your email or home address changed recently? Make sure you contact your FBU brigade organiser with your updated details.

CHECK YOUR NOTICEBOARD

Go and look at your FBU noticeboard. If it's out of date or missing information, tell your rep or update it yourself if you can.

STEP UP AS A REP

If you can, put yourself forward to become a rep or support your branch. The strength of the union depends on members stepping up.

KENT FIREFIGHTERS RALLY AGAINST CUTS



More than 200 FBU members rallied outside Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority headquarters to oppose plans that could close five fire stations and cut dozens of on-call firefighter roles.

Following the demonstration, the authority delayed its consultation to review the proposals further. It's a clear sign that organised campaigning works, and with members standing together, this fight is far from over.

Crews tackle wildfires over record temperatures

Record extreme temperatures have underlined the increasing frontline burden on firefighters from climate change as crews tackled wildfires on Tintwistle Moor in Derbyshire and Stapleford Moor on the Lincolnshire-Notts border. Dartmoor was officially described as "tinder dry" with a very high risk of a blaze.

The FBU is demanding government action to improve infrastructure across the UK.



Dorset and Wiltshire FBU win

Dorset & Wiltshire firefighters have fought and won against the proposed closure of eight fire stations, saving up to 96 jobs.

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority has abandoned proposals to close eight fire stations, subject to the condition that...

They are approved to raise council tax, and there are no more cuts to DWFRS by February 2027.

The FBU will continue to hold Dorset and Wiltshire CFO and the Fire Authority to account and will stay vigilant against potential covert cuts disguised as "service modernisation".



Key dates for your diary

■ 4 July

Join LFB colleagues for London Pride

■ 25 July

Join Northern Ireland colleagues for Belfast Pride



Education events

We are currently organising an education programme for September onwards.

Please keep an eye on emails from head office with more details to come.

Otherwise, contact your FBU regional secretary for more information on what to expect from our programme and what courses you can do.

