

MARCH 2026

RED NOTICE



General secretary's comment

It's been an exceptionally busy month, with major discussions underway with leading government officials on issues from pay reform to cancer testing.

In Oxfordshire, campaigning is intensifying as firefighters vote in a consultative ballot for industrial action over proposed cuts. This is a pivotal moment. Voting YES will send a clear message to management that cuts to the frontline are not up for discussion.

If you're an Oxfordshire firefighter, return your ballot paper before Monday 30 March and vote YES.



FBU Oxfordshire members are taking part in a consultative ballot on potential industrial action in response to proposed changes to the county's fire service. The ballot is open until Monday 30 March, allowing members to decide the next steps in the campaign.

The FBU is recommending that members vote YES to challenge Oxfordshire County Council's proposals that could reduce fire cover, including cutting firefighters from the frontline, closing stations and removing fire engines at night.

FBU presses Health Secretary for stronger firefighter cancer protections

General Secretary Steve Wright and National Officer Adam Taylor met Health Secretary Wes Streeting to press for stronger firefighter health protections, citing evidence of increased cancer risk. The FBU has also announced its first Health and Safety Summit in April, bringing together experts and H&S reps to examine key occupational health risks.

Union leaders join national roundtable on pay reform

Senior FBU officials attended a roundtable with fire service employers and government officials to discuss pay reform and the evolving firefighter role. The meeting forms part of ongoing national work to develop a fairer, modern pay structure.

BUILD YOUR UNION

Cuts Kill: Ask your MP to sign the EDM

Write to your MP and tell them to back the Early Day Motion to stop the cuts – use the online tool here:
<https://fbu.write.mp/campaigns/cuts-kill-edm>

Join the Together Alliance march

Join the demo against hate on 28 March – register to be part of your regions' delegation here:
<https://forms.gle/ZavQeAqCix7hRHm9>

Support campaigns against local cuts

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

COVID-19 INQUIRY
REPORT RECOGNISES
FIREFIGHTERS' WORK
DURING PANDEMIC

Firefighters have successfully halted plans for a new 24/7 fire station at the Sizewell C nuclear site on the Suffolk coast.

A group of five women are posing for a photo in front of a purple backdrop. The backdrop features the text 'TUC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2026' in large white letters, and below it, 'Re-Sisters: Smashing the Status Quo' and 'Join us for a great evening - see you all there! www.tuc.org.uk'. The women are wearing dark blue t-shirts with the slogan 'FIGHT FOR 52' printed in white and red. The woman on the far left is also wearing a lanyard with a badge. The woman on the far right is wearing a black belt with the 'FIGHT FOR 52' logo.

FBU women push for change at TUC Conference

Delegates also successfully moved a motion on staffing levels and pay in fire control rooms.

Key dates for your diary

■ 28 March

Together Alliance
march, London

■ 30 March

Oxfordshire consultative ballot closes

■ **15-16 April**

FBU Health and Safety Summit



Education events

■ **24-26 March**

Serious accident investigation course

Health and safety remains a top priority for the union. This updated and improved three-day course on 24–26 March will equip health and safety reps with the practical skills and knowledge to handle serious incidents, analyse evidence, and better protect members.

