



eFBU Matters—Informing Berkshire Members

Pensions Under Attack—Again!!

Once again public sector pensions are under attack. Firefighters already pay some of the highest contributions in the public sector and the government want to increase them further. Members need to be clear about the impact of increased contributions, detrimental changes and the government rationale for the changes. The following information and links might help you understand some of the issues around pension attacks and look out for more information from FBU head office in the coming weeks.



This is just a brief summary of how some of the changes will affect members of the pension schemes—click on the link for more info:

Changing RPI to CPI for uprating inflation— will cut the future value of pension benefits by a massive 15%. The FBU have entered a legal challenge against this change.

Increased contributions— FPS members already pay 11% contributions and NFPS pay 8.5%. A 3% increase will see Firefighters paying £800 more per year.

For more pension information—[click here](#)

Mileage and Insurance

Don't short-change yourself! The new training rate for mileage is **45p/mile** and all claims in this tax year should be at that rate.

On the subject of transport....numerous members have voiced concerns about using their own vehicles to facilitate stand-bys etc. The FBU advice is that you should check with your insurance provider to ensure that you are covered. It appears that some types of insurance will only cover you for the drive to and from your permanent place of work i.e. the station or workplace where you are substantive.

If you travel without the proper cover, you do so at your own risk and it is unthinkable that RBFERS would put you in this position. This issue was raised during the Swinley incident when the movement of P-cars caused problems. If you are injured while driving without proper insurance, you limit the help that Thompsons, the FBU solicitors, can offer you.

TOIL

In a surprise departure from the Grey Book, RBFERS has suggested that *time off in lieu* of overtime should not be given at the enhanced rate (equivalent to time and a half). This would mean that meetings, courses and conferences worked outside of your normal contractual hours would only be recompensed on a time for time basis. So, if you attended an eight hour training course during your days off, you would only be allowed those same number of hours back as a compensatory rota, even though they are in addition to the 42 hour week you had already worked.

As a double whammy, if you are unable to take up your compensatory rota due to crewing shortfalls, you will only be refunded the TOIL at the basic rate of pay. The FBU has warned RBFERS that this deviation from the national conditions of service is likely to lead to our members refusing to undertake training etc in their non-duty days. Are you prepared to do overtime and not receive the agreed rate for it? **The FBU is keen to hear your views.**



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Fire Authority—All Change!

At the recent AGM of the Fire Authority there were some significant changes. Following the local elections in May six new councillors were appointed to the Authority by their councils. The new members are Councillors David Burbage (Windsor/Maidenhead), Andrew Cumpsty (Reading), Haqeeq Dar (Slough), Ricky Duveen (Reading), David Holtby (West Berks) and Edward Plenty (Slough).

There were big changes at the top where Chair, Paul Bryant, was replaced by Colin Dudley and Pauline Hellier-Symonds was elected to the role of Deputy-Chair.

Berkshire FBU welcome all new members to the Fire Authority and congratulate those elected to lead the Authority. For full details about the Fire Authority [click here](#)

Royal Wedding Holiday



Did you enjoy your day off in lieu for working on the Royal Wedding? It seems there has been much confusion caused by the extra PH slot placed on Firewatch. Members were shocked to hear that the extra day might now be reclaimed by the brigade, which can only come from other leave entitlement.

Brigade Officials were inundated with a large number of calls from unhappy members when the news broke. FBU Officials have requested that RBFRS look into the matter, and remembers that its employees went the extra mile at Swinley and during the previous cold weather.

Are Your Details Correct?

Have you updated the FBU about your change of address or next of kin?

It's vital that we have your correct details so if in doubt [CLICK HERE](#) for the forms you need.

Please print off, complete and return to Paul Watts FBU Membership Secretary. at BHQ.

New Regional Treasurer

Berkshire FBU would like to congratulate Paul Watts on being elected Region 12 Treasurer. Well done, Paul! He replaces Dave Dymond, who stepped down recently. A great deal of thanks are owed to Dave for his dedication and excellent work while in post. Paul has stood down as regional control rep but will be remaining as Brigade Membership Secretary for Berkshire FBU.

Your Berkshire FBU Officials are:

Mark Stollery— Brigade Secretary— 07917 065868

Maurice Whyte—Brigade Chair—07917 065867

Paul Watts—Brigade Membership Secretary—07917 065869

Please do not hesitate to contact them if you need FBU help.