



Established 1918

The Fire Brigades Union

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31st January 2005.

Dear Colleague,

PENSIONS CAMPAIGN.

The Government has announced plans to make amendments to Public Sector pension provision. Well heeled cabinet ministers believe that our pensions are too expensive and a drain on the nations resources (except if you are a Member of Parliament or a Judge that is!)

You should note that this has nothing to do with our pay campaign and that all public sector workers will lose out because of these proposals.

We are in a very simple predicament. We either fight for our pension or we watch it disappear.

The FBU has made a response nationally to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's consultation on the future of our pension scheme. We in Northern Ireland have also made a considered and detailed response. [a copy has been distributed to your Regional Committee representative and it can be viewed on our local website at www.fbuni.org or at www.fbu.org.uk]

The TUC has organised a National Day of Action for 18th February 2005. Demonstrations will be held across the UK. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has organised a rally to be held at Belfast City Hall at 12.00 on the same day. Other venues will be announced in due course.

THIS IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO SEND A CLEAR SIGNAL TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT WE WILL NOT STAND BY WHILST THEY ROB OUR PENSION!!!

FBU members must play a significant role at that demonstration so we are calling upon each and every member to attend this event.

Please discuss this with your colleagues at watch/branch/department/station and organise yourselves to be at the demo.

You must understand that there is no one out there who will save your pension for you! Our best chance at this time is to align ourselves with other trade unionists and tell the government we will not accept their proposals.

Further information will be circulated as and when it becomes available but you must help your FBU representatives by attending your branch meetings and regularly checking your branch notice board for updated information.

There is nothing more important for you to do on 18th February than to be at this demonstration!

Yours fraternally,

Tony Maguire.
Regional Secretary.