



# **THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION NORTHERN IRELAND REGION**

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## **Fire Strike A Possibility!**

Talks aimed at bringing the long-running Firefighters' dispute to an end have collapsed in London. Yesterday, after 2 weeks of detailed and promising negotiations between Employers and the Fire Brigades Union, a group of 7 London Labour Party councillors wrecked any hopes of a deal.

Under the instructions of Nick Raynsford-the New Labour Minister responsible for the Fire Service- they deliberately and wilfully scuppered the talks by reneging on provisional agreements reached between the two sides.

These individuals – who were at negotiations for the first time – imposed their will on the other genuine employers' representatives who were attempting to help resolve outstanding matters.

It should be noted that the Fire Authority for N.Ireland's representatives were instrumental in trying to broker a deal that would have settled this dispute.

Jim Barbour senior Fire Brigades Union Official in Northern Ireland said

“The public have a right to know that this dispute is being prolonged by vindictive elements within the Labour Government which could ultimately see firefighters back on strike.

We want to avoid that scenario but have been given no other option. It is almost incredulous to believe that these 7 councillors with no experience of previous negotiations can be allowed to wreck this deal.”

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