



# **The Fire Brigades Union**

## **Region 2, Northern Ireland**

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**PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE!**

09.00 Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2005.

## **NEW LABOUR TO PICK-POCKET PENSIONERS!**

Firefighters from across Northern Ireland will join colleagues from the public services in a demonstration, opposing Government proposals to slash public sector pensions.

FBU members will assemble at Belfast City Hall from 12.00 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February, to vent their anger and voice their opposition to Government plans to make sweeping changes to their pensions. The demonstrators will then gather with hundreds of public sector workers at a public meeting in Transport House, Belfast, organised by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

FBU spokes person Jim Barbour said today;

***“Our members are outraged at this latest twist of the New Labour knife. FBU members will not sit idly by and allow this Government to pick-pocket the pensions of millions of public sector workers across the UK, including hundreds of firefighters in Northern Ireland. Our members have earned those pensions and will face an old age of uncertainty and poverty if this ‘mugging’ is not stopped”***

***It is obvious to us that Blair and Brown are intending to do a ‘Robert Maxwell’ with millions of pounds of our member’s hard earned cash.***

Commenting on the level of support traditionally enjoyed by firefighters Mr. Barbour went on to say;

***“Firefighters and Control staff are grateful for and welcome the support of the Northern Ireland public and indeed, our local politicians and Fire Authority. This government is out of touch with its people. Blair and Brown must be made to listen and public sector workers are telling them, loud and clear, you will not rob our futures without a fight!”***

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