



**DEFEND CONTROL JOBS**  
AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

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**FIRE BRIGADES UNION**  
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**13 May 2010**

**TO : BRIGADE SECRETARIES**

Dear Brother/Sister,

**FAIRER COMMUTATION CAMPAIGN - REFERRAL TO PENSION OMBUDSMAN - UPDATE**

Officials and Members will be aware of the ongoing challenge to achieve a fairer implementation rate for the commutation factors applicable to the 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme. Following an earlier decision by the Executive Council this matter has now been progressed to the Pension Ombudsman for his consideration. The aim of this circular is to provide an update re this referral and to report on the recent discussions and exchange of correspondence that has taken place between the FBU and the Pension Ombudsman which should enable his department to make a decision on how it should be progressed.

As part of this exchange of correspondence the FBU wrote to the investigator, who is dealing with this issue, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 requesting a copy of any responses that the Department for Communities and Local Government had to our initial submission to the Pension Ombudsman to allow us to comment before they were considered further.

The Pension Ombudsman agreed to this and sent a letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> April enclosing the response from CLG as well as the one from the Government Actuary's Department and inviting the FBU to comment on the issues raised within them.

The FBU have now submitted comments along with a time line of events outlining the FBU's view of the role of CLG in this matter and explained the actions of the FBU re the time limits. (This letter and time line is attached for your information.)

This comprehensive letter responds to claims from CLG including one that the Pension Ombudsman has no jurisdiction to consider the complaints and points out that CLG have been reluctant to provide the FBU with any relevant information throughout this action.

Executive Council members will be receiving an update on this campaign at the full business meeting scheduled for June and further updates will be available on the FBU website [www.fbu.org.uk](http://www.fbu.org.uk) and via all usual channels.

Yours in Unity,

**SEAN STARBUCK**  
**NATIONAL OFFICER**



Commutation  
grievances time-line f



Letter to PO  
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SS/ba