

Date: 16th June 2009

ALL MEMBERS

Merseyside FBU Information Update

Dear Brother/Sister,

All FBU branches and departments should ensure that their members are aware of and have debated the Brigade Committee resolution concerning MF&RS and MFA spending, claims and expenses;

This Brigade Committee believes that rather than waiting for the inevitable fallout from this growing public scandal to affect MF&RS and its expenses and claims procedures, it would be prudent for MF&RS to publish senior management and fire authority claims and expenditure including receipts for consultants and contractors, over the last four years showing detailed explanations of every penny of public money spent and every expenses claim submitted and why it was paid.

This resolution will be discussed and voted upon at the next Brigade Committee.

Further research is currently being carried out and financial information collated by the FBU locally and nationally, at the appropriate time, the FBU will release this information to the press and public of Merseyside.

The Financial Times latest poll has confirmed that the public is frustrated and angry and will not continue to blindly support MP's or the three main political parties at the next General Election. **59% of the public who were polled will be voting for independents or alternatives as they have lost faith in the current political system and parties.**

FBU members will also be aware that Merseyside FBU has formed their own political party – **The Public Services Coalition** with the aims of protecting public service jobs and services and also standing candidates in local elections.

Our political party has the support of many other organisations across Merseyside and the North West and **we will** be standing candidates in the next round of local elections. More details and information will follow nearer to May 2010.

Yours in Unity

Mark Dunne
Brigade Chair

Merseyside MPs to lose union's financial backing

TWO Merseyside Labour MPs had their funding axed by a trade union last night, as a protest against the "privatisation" of public services.

Unison – which is the Labour Party's biggest financial backer – said Jane Kennedy (Wavertree) and Angela Eagle (Wallasey) would no longer be bankrolled unless they agreed to "stand up for the union's values".

The union, which represents millions of workers across the public sector, is furious about government plans to part-privatise Royal Mail, as well as the "market testing" of NHS services.

Dave Prentis, its general secretary, won a standing ovation from its conference in Brighton when he said his members were tired of "feeding the hand that bites them".

He told delegates: "I call on our labour link to suspend all constituency development payments.

"We should only work with, and support, trade union MPs who stand up for our values and ensure that any Labour party manifesto does not continue the privatisation of our public services."

"The government says the solution is to hand larger and larger chunks of our public services over to private companies that will always put profit before public interest. "

Wavertree and Wallasey are among 64 constituency parties funded by Unison.

It gives more than £100,000 every year, which works out at around £1,600 for each of them.

Ms Eagle, who is also a treasury minister, was not available for comment last night.

Ms Kennedy, who quit the Government last week, over Gordon Brown's leadership, said: "I understand the concerns that Unison are raising and the issues like, for example, the privatisation of Royal Mail and I share their concerns.

"My relationship with Unison goes back over 30 years and I have a close and friendly relationship with union members and that will continue, whatever they decide to do in terms of supporting my constituency