

Date: 18th September 2006

ALL MEMBERS

FBU Dispute Update 4

Dear Brother/Sister,

The magnificent support shown to striking Merseyside FBU members at Friday's demonstration by national FBU members and also by other national Trade Unions has reminded all of us of how important our fight is and just how much anger, support and determination there is for all striking FBU members.

The messages of support run in to their hundreds and the financial donations to Merseyside's Hardship fund run into tens of thousands. Any member with genuine financial hardship should make an approach to their Branch officials who can immediately contact the Hardship Committee to authorise payment.

Members will be aware that talks to resolve this dispute are continuing with the NJC joint secretaries and an update will be given to both the Strike Committee meeting on Wednesday (20th) and to the Brigade Committee who are meeting on Thursday (21st).

Merseyside members do need to keep up with the brilliant work that they have been doing with families and friends helping and supporting them. Merseyside MP's still need to be contacted as do local councillors and they should also continue to be given the opportunity to visit all our picket lines to have genuine conversations with all our control members, firefighters and officers who are picketing their places of work.

The determination of our members to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect by our employers and their managers and for them to honour and abide by local and national agreements is unwavering and the Merseyside public's response, understanding and support of our dispute is, at times, overwhelming. Every FBU member and their friends and families need to be aware that the wider trade union movement is now involved.

Yours in Unity

Mark Dunne
Brigade Chair