



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

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**FIRE BRIGADES UNION**  
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TO: ALL MEMBERS

Dear Brother/Sister

**RALLY AND LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT 21 OCTOBER 2009: DEFEND OUR FIRE SERVICE**

Our Annual Conference in Scarborough debated the various threats to our jobs and conditions and to our Service itself. The most urgent of these is the threat to the jobs and conditions of hundreds of members working in Emergency Fire Controls in England. However, it is clear that the attack on our Controls is a part of a wider agenda which threatens our service. Our campaign and lobby last year around firefighter fatalities (Safer Firefighters: Safer Communities) drew attention to the dangers of fragmentation in our Service.

Some of the challenges facing us all include:

- A cuts agenda driven by Central Government in the aftermath of the recent budget;
- The budget document claims that £110 million worth of savings can be made by changes to shift systems and crewing arrangements. This can only lead to further attacks on our members and the service we provide;
- We continue to see differing standards adopted in virtually every Fire and Rescue Service in the UK in relation to training, equipment; crewing arrangements; emergency response standards;
- Local Fire and Rescue Authorities continue to seek ways to make cuts in frontline services, axe fire engines, close stations and reduce the level of service in a range of ways.

It is clear from all this that our Service is likely to face continued attacks in the coming period. As part of our campaign to defend the jobs and conditions of Control members as well as our Service as a whole we have called a rally and lobby of Parliament for October.

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## FBU Rally and Lobby of Parliament

- Defend our Fire Service
- Defend Control Jobs
- Investment not cuts

Wednesday 21 October 2009

Westminster Central Hall (followed by lobby of MPs)

Further details will follow and meetings will be held in every Brigade to discuss the challenges ahead.

Best wishes.

Yours fraternally

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Wrack". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**MATT WRACK**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**

*MW/sll*