

FIRE BRIGADES UNION

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FIRE BRIGADES UNION HITS OUT AT SCAREMONGERING OVER WORKING TIME

The Fire Brigades Union has hit out at what it calls “scaremongering” over proposed changes to the Working Time Directive. New proposals being discussed at European level would end the individual opt out from the 48-hour week.

FBU Assistant General Secretary Andy Dark said:

“The chaos being predicted is wildly inaccurate. There has been much scaremongering on the impact of the working time directive on firefighters working retained duty.

“The vast majority of retained firefighters do not work in excess of 48 hours over the reference period and there will be no impact on them. One in five are self-employed and are exempt from the directive and regulations altogether.

“Currently there is dialogue taking place on the decisions taken by the European Parliament. The impact of any changes to the Working Time Directive is and will be a matter for negotiation between the employers and union.

“National negotiations take place at the National Joint Council where all uniformed staff at firefighter, crew manager and watch manager are represented by the FBU. The retained Firefighter’s Union refused to take the seat offered to it.

“The vast majority of firefighters working retained duty are in the FBU.”

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