



THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION

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HERTS FIRE CREWS HIT OUT OVER SUDDEN MIDNIGHT CLOSURE OF RADLETT FIRE STATION

Hertfordshire fire crews have condemned the sudden closure of Radlett fire station at midnight last night. Fire crews were given only a few hours' notice and the public have been kept in the dark over the move.

The sudden closure comes as a survival plan to keep the station open was near completion. No public statement has been made with local councillors and the public given no notice of the decision.

Tony Smith Herts FBU vice-chair and Station Commander at Radlett said: "Herts fire crews are shocked and appalled at the sudden closure. This is at time when a survival plan for the station is nearing completion and is yet to be evaluated.

"For the first time in over 100 years Radlett has no operational fire station. This is an area where there has been considerable house building, with more to come, and with some of the busiest motorways in the country with the M1 being expanded to take even more traffic.

"It is disgraceful behaviour to throw fire crews out of their station at a couple of hours notice, displaying the worst excesses of the worst employers. Less than a year ago we were praised for our work at Buncefield by the very people who are now treating us like this.

"No one bothered to give the public any notice this was going to happen at midnight on Monday and they will also be furious. There was a survival plan for the station being put in place and those responsible for that have been kicked in the teeth while they slept.

"This closure will have a knock on effect because our work was not confined to the Radlett area. Crews from other stations will be stretched to fill the gap so the repercussions will be felt all around.

"The County Council has a cavalier attitude to its fire crews and the public we serve. We would urge people to contact county councillors across Hertfordshire and demand the station remains operational until the survival plan can at least be looked at."

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