

FIRE BRIGADES UNION

An appeal against the sacking of union official, and Whiston firefighter Kevin Hughes, ends today in Merseyside fire and rescue authority.

Mr Hughes was arrested by police after assault allegations. He always denied the allegations and no charges were brought because of a lack of reliable evidence.

But Merseyside fire authority suspended Mr Hughes in July last year, carried out their own investigation and sacked him.

FBU general secretary Matt Wrack said: "Kevin's treatment has appalled firefighters across Merseyside. The police carried out a professional investigation; the Crown prosecution considered the evidence and the case was dropped.

"Merseyside fire service then carried out their own investigation. The overwhelming weight of evidence was in Kevin's favour but he was sacked in what we believe is a clear case of victimisation."

TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber said, 'The FBU are clear that there is little evidence to support the allegations made against Kevin Hughes. I'm hoping that after a fair, open hearing Kevin's case will be positively resolved'.

A ballot for strike action is currently underway.

ENDS

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