



# THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION - CAMBRIDGESHIRE

*"The Voice Of The Frontline Professionals"*

To: **JCC Chair Cllr Kevin Reynolds**  
CC: **ACFO Rick Hylton**  
**FBU Regional Secretary, Riccardo La Torre**

Date: 20.09.17

## Re: FBU National Policy with regards to RFU

Dear Cllr Reynolds,

Following on from recent JCC meetings, we are now in a position to furnish you with the information you requested regarding the Fire Brigades Union Policy upon the sitting on committees with the RFU.

We apologise for the delay in acquisition of this information, however we wished to be fully secured in our position before relaying. We are now in that position following a robust investigation of FBU policy to conclude, our position was accurately relayed to you.

Please find below details of the FBU National Conference Policy from 2002:

### **77. RETAINED FIRE FIGHTERS UNION**

This Conference acknowledges the non-recognition of the Retained Firefighters Union on the National Joint Council and other Committees, and now call upon all Brigade Officials to give notice to Chief Fire Officers, Firemasters and Fire Authorities that in future they will not sit on Committees with representatives of the Retained Firefighters Union.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

This resolution was voted upon by FBU National Conference delegates in 2002. The resolution passed and therefore became FBU National Policy.

To double affirm this position we conducted a thorough review of policy since 2002 to ensure this had not been superseded. Exactly as relayed to both management and the JCC, formal Safety Committees are the only exemption to this policy, following a subsequent Conference Policy passed May 2017 providing for that exemption.

However to triple affirm this position and we contacted the Vice President of the Fire Brigades Union regarding the matter.

We are now in receipt of a response which again confirms our position that FBU policy stands in line with the resolution from 2002, which we have shared with you above.

Therefore after triple confirming our national policy on this matter we are assured that the position we shared with you was accurate and up to date.



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We hope you therefore accept why as FBU Officials we are disinclined to acquiesce your request to break our unions national policy, sit on a local consultation forum with the RFU and immediately trigger internal union disciplinary procedures for Martin and I. We trust you accept that is an unreasonable expectation.

We note that as the new Chair of the JCC, you wish to change the position of the previous JCC chair, who introduced a mutually agreed workable solution in terms of two meetings.

However you place the FBU Brigade Officials in an impossible impasse outside of our control with this change. In doing so you knowingly remove our ability to formally consult with the Fire Authority as was the previously expressed desire.

A workable solution still exists if you can agree to facilitate two separate meetings in the same format as before. We share we are still willing and able to work to that format to resolve the matter.

It was the FBU who proposed establishing the Joint Consultation Committee to assist and facilitate joint consultation. Years on we still await to see a single agenda point raised by the RFU representatives. However as Chair it is your prerogative to determine your priorities. In such challenging times we hope to be able to work together to secure a flexible solution that leaves neither of us subject to internal disciplinary procedures.

We hope this satisfies your request. If you need any further information then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

***FBU Cambridgeshire***