



24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Mr. Joe Stanley  
President  
NZPFU  
PO Box 38213  
Wellington Mail Centre  
Lower Hutt 5045

By email: [president@nzpfu.org.nz](mailto:president@nzpfu.org.nz)

Dear Joe

On behalf of the Corrections Association of New Zealand (CANZ), I am writing to express our strong support for the New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union and its members during your ongoing pay dispute with FENZ.

Firefighters, like all frontline emergency service workers across New Zealand, are experiencing the cumulative effects of years of underinvestment - wages that have not kept pace with inflation, increasing workload pressures, and persistent difficulties in recruiting and retaining skilled staff.

These challenges are not accidental; they reflect a broader underinvestment in the public safety workforce by successive governments, and funding and policy decisions made by them as the employer. With that comes a clear responsibility to ensure that pay and conditions are sufficient to sustain a safe, effective, and resilient emergency response workforce.

Your members perform highly skilled, physically and mentally demanding work in often dangerous and unpredictable environments. Your members play a vital and often under-recognised role in protecting communities across New Zealand. The risks inherent in emergency response work, combined with increasing operational demands and pressures, highlight the importance of ensuring that remuneration and conditions properly reflect the nature of the role.

It is not reasonable or sustainable for this level of service to be maintained while real wages decline and workforce pressures intensify

As a union representing frontline Corrections staff, CANZ understands the challenges associated with advocating for fair pay in essential public services. Our members, like yours, work in environments where safety, resilience, and professionalism are critical every day.

CANZ supports your efforts to secure a settlement that recognises the skill, commitment, and sacrifice of your members. Achieving fair pay outcomes across the emergency and public safety sectors is essential to maintaining a stable, effective, and well-supported workforce.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Floyd Du Plessis', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Floyd Du Plessis  
President  
Corrections Association of New Zealand (CANZ)  
[president@canzunion.co.nz](mailto:president@canzunion.co.nz)