



# The Fire Brigades Union

GENERAL SECRETARY: MATT WRACK

Established 1918

BRADLEY HOUSE, 68 COOMBE ROAD, KINGSTON UPON THAMES, SURREY, KT2 7AE

Telephone: 0208 541 1765

Facsimile: 0208 546 5187

Steve Warner  
President  
NZ Professional Firefighters Union  
PO Box 38213  
Wellington Mail Centre  
Lower Hutt 5045  
Cnr Jackson and Sydney Street  
Petone  
New Zealand

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

03 August 2011

Dear Steve,

We write to express solidarity with all NZPFU members on behalf of the Executive Council and all members of the Fire Brigades Union.

We have followed with interest your dispute and are alarmed that your employer has forced you into a position of having no alternative but to take strike action commencing on 5 August - a position no union ever wishes to find itself in, not least a union representing firefighters. Similarly, we are disgusted with the spiteful, reactionary and malicious attempt by principal management to attack firefighters with their "Guidelines for Managers". As always if the employer and the government were to put half as much effort in negotiating a fair settlement as they put into making their preparations then the dispute and the strike action would be avoided altogether.

It is clear that there comes a point where there is no alternative but for workers to stand up for what is right and clearly you have reached such a point.

We wish you every success in your campaign. The FBU knows only too well about the intransigence of employer and government that seem content to praise a nation's firefighters when it suits but then ignore their pleas for a decent wage. Such hypocrisy, it seems, has no boundaries.

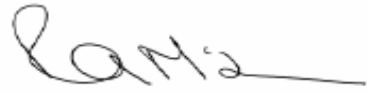
We ourselves are on the verge of entering a period of strike action against our Coalition Government's austerity measures. Not only are we facing pressures on our pay (through a public sector pay freeze) but also through cuts to our frontline and now, of most concern, attacks on our pension scheme.

Please be assured that the FBU are with you in these testing times and send you all best wishes for the 5 August and beyond. Like you, we hope that the employer and your government will have come to its senses by then. The stance you are taking not just on pay, but also on jobs and fire cover is an inspiration to us all.

In solidarity

Handwritten signature of Matt Wrack in black ink.

MATT WRACK  
FBU GENERAL SECRETARY

Handwritten signature of Alan McLean in black ink.

ALAN MCLEAN  
FBU PRESIDENT