



Lancashire County Council
Chairman
Combined Fire Authority
County Councillor Mr.R. Wilkinson.
County Hall
Preston.
PR1 0BR

7, Kings Drive,
Preston. Lancashire.PR2 3HN.
ENGLAND.
Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1772 715963.
email: symbolseeker@email.com

BURNS

My Ref: PB11007

Monday, 10th December 2007.

Your Ref:

**The Fire-fighters Pension Scheme
Injury Pension Review – A Protest.**

Dear Chairman,

I wish to draw to your attention to this 'Review' which it is purported, is being carried out by the Lancashire Pensions Service. However, when pressed on the matter they state that this 'initiative' is being driven from your Fire Service Headquarters by a Mr Brendan Hamilton your human resources manager. This absolute confusion sets the tone of this complete debacle.

This 'Review' is causing worry, distress, and now an explosion of anger with 2000 retired Fire-fighters and those with surviving families in Lancashire.

Whilst there may, or there may not be, issues with individual's Pensions the crass heavy handed methodology being used to implement this 'Review' is nothing short of bureaucratic bullying by this wretched Hamilton. You know me of old and I can assure you I for one am not about to be bullied by Mr. Hamilton, or anyone else come to that, and he needs to choose his ground carefully before he proceeds further.

Mr. Hamilton is clearly using the Lancashire Pensions Service to do his dirty work and allowing them to catch the backlash when it comes, as come it shall.

It seems that if this unholy alliance between Hamilton and the LPS cannot achieve its objective by civilised means it then adopts common or garden thuggery coupled with corporate deceit. Lancashire does not do it this way.

Before we proceed further with this debacle Mr.Hamilton ought to know this is not the road to walk down with Lancashire Fire-fighters of past generations who are renowned for not allowing anyone to push them around least of all a non uniformed jack in office.

Chairman, I cannot for one moment contemplate that you are a party to all this oppression having stood together on numerous picket lines fighting over the decades for the rights of Fire-fighters and their families to be treated with fair play and dignity. Having paid for and achieved our pensions, in some cases with our very lives, and I include you as a pensioner, we and our

surviving families have all earned the right to be treated in tranquillity with kindness and dignity, not blatant intimidation by an out of control self aggrandising bullying clerk.

Indeed since times immemorial Lancashire County has had an enviable reputation of integrity among local authorities for its benign and tranquil approach to those who have served this community faithfully, some paying the final sacrifice on occasions of which of course Mr.Hamilton would know nothing. From decades of personal experience I can without fear of contradiction state that no finer persons of integrity and caring common humanity were to be found in any Brigade throughout the land than Hamiltons illustrious predecessors, Ms Joan Drinkall, Ms Jane Southcott , Mr Paul Harrison. I regret even mentioning Hamilton's name in this Pantheon of true Care.

The County's Pension Treasurer Mr.A.C.T. Cutts, with such a deliciously ironic name, tells us all with his pompous prose on his website how kindly he is going to be to us yet this menial Hamilton belies his words. In the first instance Cutts exhorts this storm trooper Hamilton in his core values, visions, and behaviours statement to ... "Lets treat others the way we expect to be treated" ...with a jackboot? And again... "We will be friendly, professional, and sensitive to the needs or our customers"...by allowing Hamilton to cut off Fire-Fighters Pensions at Xmas time if they are not good boys and do not do as Hamilton wants.

Forgive me if I am wrong but it was my 35 years of Service experience that the only time a state or LA Pension is not paid is for convicted felons for offences against the state. One assumes by Mr. Hamilton's criterion there are potentially 2000 convicted spies masquerading as retired Fire-fighters in Lancashire. It would be laughable if it were not so contemptible.

Mr.Hamilton, is incompetent, presides over, and is responsible for incompetence. How so, you may ask?

Mr. Hamilton thinks that because one pensioner has inadvertently committed an error it naturally follows that we must all be criminals in the making and that he has found a little gold mine to be exploited for his personal career advancement. Wrong on two counts. When this is over he will have found no gold mine and his career will be in shreds if 2000 pensioners have any say in the matter. He needs to have a care.

Because Mr Hamilton is so incompetent he is unable to tell which pensioner may be getting what benefit, if any, and from whom. He is, after all, only in charge of Pensions. The question we must ask ourselves is, if he is so bereft and ignorant of this basic data, an essential requirement for any human resources manager, why is he a HR manager in the first place? Is ineptitude a prequalification?

So he decides he will build a new data base and collate all this precious lode(pun intended) of information from the Department of Works and Pensions. Wrong again on two counts.

When Hamilton approached the DWP hoping to catch a further 1999 'thieves' and claw back all this money from his perceived crooks, naturally looking good in the process, the DWP quite rightly told him politely under the Data Protection Act to get lost and that unless he provided 1999 permission signatures he could kiss his new data base goodbye. To go gently is the key.

You got to admire a trier and Mr. Hamilton can be really trying.

Next when he approached the Pensioners waving his cudgel the Pensioners told him the same thing only less politely as thick Fire-fighters are wont to do on occasions such as this. It used to be called the Soldiers farewell, and incidentally, look, my cudgel bigger than yours...

Now to the matter of competency having, at an early shower stage, exhausted Hamilton's imagination and initiative.

In the first instance Hamilton sends out a letter to relevant Pensioners hoping the left does not know what the right is doing. Such naivety! You have to ask yourself about doing this in the close knit community of the Fire Service? They can see you coming a mile off...

This letter is not sent by Recorded Delivery nor Registered Mail so he assumes everyone has received his sterling prose. Wrong again. Nobody received it nor its reminder either. What reminder?

That pensioners over wintering in warmer climes may not receive this missive until the Spring never occurs to him though he will just stop their Pension anyway, he thinks.

It was put to me this morning by one of these thick Fire-fighters who clearly Mr.Hamilton has yet to meet that the contents (which he never received!) are ambiguous. I disagree, this was a beautifully crafted letter(which I never received either!) calculated to deceive. It said a lot and yet it said nothing. Attempting to deceive not once but twice and attempting to acquire retrospective permission for him to approach the DWP and a new Contract to promise to tell him all in the future so the Hamiltons of this world can lickspittle their way to career aggrandisement as he builds his missing electronic record base from scratch.

Why has he not got it in the first place? Because he is not as bright, cute, cunning, or as competent as he thinks he is, thugs never are.

When these thick Fire-fighters(I know-who never received this letter either) refused to sign away their lives without at least a courteous explanation as to why this was all necessary, not convinced by some sly comment that they could get more pension money(in a pigs eye of naivety), Mr Hamilton resorts to unbridled thuggery.

Unless you sign I will stop your Pension he says, indeed, you and whose army may we ask? We are singularly unmoved by rattling of a hollow vassal. On what legal basis do you think you are going to do this? Who gave you this executive power? Show us your remit and we will show you our cudgel, again.

When these thick Fire-fighters were laying their lives on the line I surmise the Mr. Hamiltons of this world were running round a fire safe Irish school yard with a piece of jam and bread in their hand though I imagine little of this crossed his child like mind, before or since. Now all grown up he considers we are all an easy touch. Well 1999 of us have bad news for you Mr.Hamilton...

I take grave exception when a disabled young retired Fire-fighter's wife approaches me at this Xmas time worried that this Messianic like Hamilton will stop her husband's well deserved Pension. Let me inform the Hamiltons of this world that I and a lot of others with the integrity he patently lacks spent two years to bring to justice and punish miscreants who bullied this young man almost to the point of death. I am not going to permit a new generation of bullies like Hamilton to threaten the tranquillity of this family again.

Should Hamilton decide illegally, or be permitted, to stop one single Pension we will financially mobilise a class action against your 'Service' and sue you for breach of Contract, for harassment leading to distress, for causing alarm and despondency , and frankly anything else these thick Fire-fighters can think of...and you already think have budgetary problems?

I suggest Chairman, you bring this particular dog back under control and call it off because put quite simply our sleeping dogs are bigger than yours and I advise they are best left that way for to do otherwise will result in an unacceptably high PR cost to your wonderful service should we decide to mobilise against this Hamilton.

I just know commonsense will prevail.

Yours in tranquil fraternity,



Paul P Burns GFireE
Divisional Fire Officer (Rtd)



Order of Excellent Fire-fighter(Russia)



Oklahoma Medal of Honor



CC The Leader Lancashire County Council.
County Councillor H.Harding

Member of Parliament.
Mr. Nigel Evan M.P.

The Editor Lancashire Evening Post.
Mr.S.Reynolds.