



'An Teach Bán'

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Thursday 22nd August, 2019.

Mr. Tim Farron M.P.

Acland House,
Yard 2,
Stricklandgate,
Kendal,
LA9 4ND
England.

My Ref: PB0219.

The Fire Service Scandals & Bankruptcy.

Dear Mr. Farron,

Briefly when you were 3 years of age I became your local Fire Station Commander at Broadfield Drive, Leyland. With Jill(sadly deceased), a proud Lancastrian and an Officer in Lancashire County Fire Brigade I raised 2 children.

As you might expect I know Lostock Hall and Runshaw College very well. I am sure you will know Dame Louise Ellman M.P. my esteemed friend who I remain in contact with as we battle along. Baroness Josie Farrington was a great loss to us both.

Now to a brief on the latest scandal in the Fire Service, the latest of many and in particular in Lancashire which I uncovered commencing in September 2007.

1. The principal Scheme still in payment since 1992 is the 'Firemens Pension Scheme' until closure to new entrants in 2004.
2. Members paid 11% pmonth into this scheme deducted at source.
3. This how Fire Service Pensions are funded:

Historically every Fire Authority Pension fund was 'unfunded'. This meant that the 49 Fire Authorities routinely started every financial year with their pension pot empty and concluded the year with a substantial deficit after having paid the Statutory pensions due to their retired Fire Service Veterans(FSV) of whom a

substantial number are disabled through Service injury; to their Widows(Half-50%) and Beneficiaries. Get the pension(s) wrong and every one suffers.

At the end of the financial year Fire Authorities would then routinely reclaim all this pension expenditure (in arrears) as part of the grant aid which they would receive from central government via the Home Office(The Fire Service Department) by reclaiming 100% of their total pension expenditure the previous financial year.

4. On Wednesday the 13th August 2014 the Essex Gazette headlined an article that the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service(ECFRS) had 'discovered' a black hole in its pension accounts amounting to a deficit of £15mil which had been accumulating unnoticed since 2006.
H.M. Treasury required immediate repayment of this huge deficit(with interest) to them and to us the Taxpayers, or face further commercial compound interest penalties. Bankruptcy loomed and the money had to be found from Essex reserves.
5. It became clear that Staffordshire and Cheshire FRS found themselves in a similar position and it was reasonable speculation that if this recurring 'error' has afflicted 3 Fire Authorities beginning in 2006, then it is likely to have affected all 49 Fire Authorities over the following 8 year period.
6. At governmental level there are 4 civil servants in the DCLG Fire & Resilience Directorate, in particular the Firefighters' Pension Team(now at the Home Office), who are nationally responsible for managing Fire Service pension Schemes which includes annual reviews(never carried out) but who covered all this up and failed their Statutory duty which was to report all this to The Pension Regulator.
7. For the full background briefing to this scandal Go Here...
<http://www.themorningbugler.com/current-affairs/2014-volumes/vol-03-1st-september-2014/>
8. In 2007 the Lancashire FRS 'discovered' it alleged that FSV had not kept them informed(which they had) of deductible DWP benefits resulting in alleged overpayments which if true which it was not simply confirmed maladministration and by the use of the now infamous "Hardship Route" forced pension beneficiaries to pay these so called 'overpayments'.
The accountable Pension Scheme manager a Mr.Warren, a mendacious and criminal despot, and author of the 'Hardship Route' gave a mendacious public explanation of how all this had arisen whilst avoiding the truth that it had been the consequence of an honest retired Station Commander(now deceased) raising a query.
9. The LFRS took me to Court as the dispute leader which led to a personal expenditure of £64,000.0 but more of this unfinished business on another day, which involved corruption at Court with a complicit Judge now in 'early' retirement.
10. During this case my Barrister (Mr. John. M. Copplestone-Bruce (Life Member Inner Temple Bar-JMCB) discovered that I was not, in keeping with hundreds in Lancashire and thousands of Fire Service Beneficiaries across the UK, being substantially underpaid my pensions, now for the last 22 years in what is simple criminal fraud.
11. In 2010 as a result of cut backs Day Crew Manning was introduced in the LFRS this extended the working week from 42 to 84hrs pw for which those on this system (150+) were to receive extra salary which they assumed was pensionable but last year in keeping with thousands of others across the UK they discovered it was not. They raised with my help and the help of JMCB a pension dispute seeking to enforce the fact that this pay was

pensionable and seeking its repayment into the pension fund with interest and with the pay back of salaries from which no tax relief for pension contributions had been deducted since 2010.

12. In collusion with Mr.Mattinson, the finance manager, and with the complicit approval of the Labour Chair CC F.DeMolfetta of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority(LCF), and the Secretary of the local Fire Brigades Union the ever mendacious Mr Warren in a criminal act stated that he had a 'local agreement' with the FBU that this pay was not to be pensionable.
When pursued for a copy of this agreement neither he nor the compliant FBU could produce such an agreement.
- 13.The annual budget for the LFRS is approx. £55mil.
- 14.Several other Fire Authorities lost High Court actions which stated that the pay was pensionable.
- 15.In capitulation Warren sought a 'deal' but the law states otherwise. The aggrieved in the LFRS estimate of a payback to the Pension Fund was between £1-2mil.
- 16.The LFRS commissioned an accountants and a Barrister's Opinion. The Barrister stated it had to be paid back and the accountants conservatively estimate a reimbursement of £7.5mil which we feel will be an underestimate.
- 17.In still seeking a fraudulent 'deal' Warren and company now propose that they will decide the pay back date which is actually 2010 and that they propose in final settlement to pay the pension fund back £0.5mil.
- 18.This coupled with the losses of fraudulent underpayment sustained by pensioner FSV's and their Beneficiaries within Lancashire alone, gestimated at £41.8mil will amount to £46.3mil which is to be paid back to the LCFA Firefighters Pension Fund form which it was fraudulently and criminally 'borrowed' and for which ever single Councillor is personally liable as they well know having been informed often enough, in particular the LibDem CC Howarth who received a hand delivered letter to this effect which he never acknowledged or replied to a CC who holds the balance of power within the LCFA.
- 19.All of this and much more is to be found on my owned and paid for website : <http://www.themorningbugler.com/>

Yours Sincerely,



Divisional Fire Officer (Rtd) Grad I Fire E.



Order
of

Excellent Firefighter



Soviet Union

LSGCM

Exemplary Fire Service



United Kingdom

Oklahoma Medal of Valour
&

Honorary Citizenship



Oklahoma USA