



Department for
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The Fire Brigades Union leadership have today alleged that a leaked letter reveals that the Department kept costed pension proposals secret. Here are the facts.

Firstly, the letter was not 'leaked', it was published openly on the Department's website on 30 April¹ when it issued and was tweeted from DCLG on that same day².

Secondly, it is common knowledge that we agreed to ask the Government Actuary's Department to cost proposals put forward by the FBU. My letter to Matt Wrack of 25 February, on the Union's website³, makes this clear, stating that "I can confirm that we are content to explore further the actuarial variations that you have suggested".

Thirdly, the letter from the Government Actuary's Department was shared with the FBU leadership on 19 March. The costings were not kept from them as they have claimed.

The FBU leadership knew we were considering these proposals. My letter to the Union of 23 April said "we are now considering this proposal across Government. While we are not yet in a position to respond positively to your suggested changes, I will inform you of the outcome of those deliberations as soon as possible"⁴. I had also been clear with the Union leadership that it was only possible to consider such proposals during a period when strike action was in abeyance. Rather than continue and finalise that constructive process the Union leadership chose to call a halt to them prematurely by announcing strike action.

We will now proceed with implementation of the Proposed Final Agreement and the necessary legislation will be put before Parliament soon.

BRANDON LEWIS MP

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/firefighters-pension-scheme-reforms>

² <https://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK/status/461505330674139136>

³ <http://www.img.fbu.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Letter-from-Brandon-Lewis-to-Matt-Wrack-25-Feb-2014.pdf>

⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/306239/Letter_from_Brandon_Lewis_to_Matt_Wrack_23_April_2014.pdf