

One Decade on

Ten years ago the FBU assisted me in carrying out one of the first surveys of women firefighters in the UK. This survey provided data for "Who Rings the Bell" a report that set a benchmark on the fire service's reaction to women who became firefighters. This report is still available on www.fitting-in.com/diss. Since that time I have worked to improve the fire service's understanding of the difficulties women face as firefighters. Now, one decade on, I am seeking to carry out a similar survey, compare the findings with my earlier research and then to produce a report that sets a further benchmark for women in the fire service.

To achieve this I have again secured the cooperation of the FBU to distribute a confidential questionnaire and this is attached. In some quarters this questionnaire may seem clumsy. However, for this survey to be comparable with the earlier one it is necessary to follow as closely as possible the original questions.

Your help in filling in this questionnaire is important in making this research a success. If you need more space please write on the back. When you are asked to make a choice then please circle or tick the answer you consider appropriate. Your answers will be confidential and remain anonymous.

If you do not want to answer any of the questions then just ignore them.

Your answers/comments do not need to be grammatically correct and can just be short sharp points.

If you would like to complete this questionnaire on line please go to www.fitting-in.com/eq
To obtain further copies of this questionnaire www.fitting-in.com/ep

If a friend or colleague has not been sent a questionnaire and would like to fill one in please refer them to the webpage's above

It would also be useful if I could carry out some interviews. If you are prepared to help with this part of the research, would you fill in that section of the questionnaire? You are assured of absolute confidentiality.

If you have completed the questionnaire electronically please email it to dave.baigent@fitting-in.com - otherwise place the completed questionnaire in the stamped addressed envelope provided and return it.

For ethics statement in relation to this research go to www.fitting-in.com/e

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation

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Reports available on line

One more last working class hero: a cultural audit of the UK fire service www.fitting-in.com/baigent.pdf

Sunrise: a new dawn in training www.fitting-in.com/sunrise.pdf

"Who Rings the Bell" www.fitting-in.com/diss.



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Length of service		Rank/role		Age	
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Duty System

Highest education qualification	
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Previous occupation/s:

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.....

Why did you join the fire service:

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.....

Where did you find out about joining the fire service:

How many times did you apply	
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What was the most difficult part of the joining process

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.....

Has the fire service lived up to your expectations	Yes	No	Sometimes
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Please comment

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Are you seeking promotion	Yes	No	In the future
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Please comment

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Please list any problems that you have experienced in practical or technical work

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Do you consider that you have a more difficult time at work because you are a woman		
All the time	Some of the time	Made no difference

Comments.....

.....

.....

How many women firefighters are there on your	Watch		Station	
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If another women was to be posted to your station would you be				
Very Happy	Happy	Don't Know	Unhappy	Very Unhappy

Comments.....

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When you first started work in the fire service did your male colleagues accept you				
During training	Yes	No	Most	Some
At the station	Yes	No	Most	Some

Have they accepted you now	Yes	No	Most	Some
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Please comment

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Are your facilities adequate for	Washing		Changing		Resting	
Please comment						
.....						
.....						

How much equality/fairness training has the fire service given you days
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Were you trained by	Uniformed officer	Equality officer	Private company
If a private company can you remember its name			

Was this training	Useful	Mediocre	Waste of time
Comments			
.....			
.....			

How much equality/fairness training has your union given you days
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Was this training	Useful	Mediocre	Waste of time
Comments.....			
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.....			

What would **you** consider the important points for equal opportunities training to cover

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How did you deal with fire service culture during your first year	
I adopted it because I wanted to/ it was the easiest way	I fought against it failed / succeeded / its an ongoing battle

How do you find fire service culture now	
I adopted it because I wanted to/ it was the easiest way	I fought against it failed / succeeded / its an ongoing battle

Please comment.....

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Do you socialise with your work colleagues	Yes	No	Sometimes
Has the fire service changed your life style			
.....			

How do your colleagues see your role as a firefighter	Honorary man	Woman
How do you see your role as a firefighter:	Honorary man	Woman
Are you happy with this please comment		
.....		

Do your senior officers' fully support the concept of women firefighters:		
Yes	No	Some

Please comment.....

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Does your union fully support the concept of women firefighters:		
Yes	No	Some

Please comment

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If women are bullied/harassed **why** do you think this happens:

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.....

Who would you most likely turn to for support if you were bullied/harassed				
Watch Officer	Senior Officer	Colleague	FBU Rep	FBU Women's Committee

Please Comment

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Have you ever been bullied/harassed at work	Yes	No
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During the first year did it occur	Frequently	Occasionally	Never
Is it still happening now	Frequently	Occasionally	Never

What form did this take

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How did you deal with it and was it successful

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.....

If you did nothing about it why was this

.....

.....

Would you recommend women friends to join the fire service	Yes	No
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Please Comment

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What do you believe is the best way to influence other women to join the fire service.....

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What is your view on the fire service taking positive action to recruit women firefighters

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Do you have any children, if so has this caused you any difficulties and has your fire service helped with these.....

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Do you have a partner What is their occupation

What do you consider the main role of a firefighter is.....

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Do you prefer the current 15 and 9 hour shift system	Yes	No
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Comment.....

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Do you have a view on 'modernisation':

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Do you hold an official position in the FBU

In total confidence would you identify your fire servicestation

If you are prepared to be interviewed to support this research then please provide your email address here@.....

Thank you for your help, if you have any queries please contact dave.baigent@fitting-in.com