

Timeline - St John union negotiations and related events

Date	Event
February - April 2023	Minister Shane Reti rides along with St John ambulance crews for 17 shifts while campaigning for the election and says acute medical services are “under extraordinary pressure.” He and St John were later reprimanded for the visits by Health New Zealand.
November 2023	Following Election 2023, the National Party, NZ First and ACT announce the formation of a coalition Government.
November 2023	The National Party and NZ First announce the signing of their coalition agreement , including a pledge to <i>“Renegotiate the Crown funding agreement with St John with a view to meeting a greater portion of their annualised budget.”</i>
December 2023	St John’s Collective Agreement for 2022/23 expires and upcoming bargaining is notified.
March 2024	FIRST Union representatives seek meetings with NZ First and Minister Shane Reti.
May 2024	FIRST Union members at St John vote for a “media strike” so ambulance officers can make concerns public about the service, funding, pay and staffing ahead of the year’s Government Budget.
May 2024	Prime Minister Christopher Luxon incorrectly claims on Breakfast TV that St John “actually don’t want to be 100% funded” by the Government.
May 2024	Budget 2024/25 is announced, with Vote Health showing a frozen budget of \$44,776,000 for Emergency Road Ambulance Services - Additional Support Funding.
July 2024	FIRST Union members at St John vote for several additional strike actions to persist until a new Collective Agreement is ratified, including chalking ambulances, wearing strike badges over name tags, and more (listed above).
July 2024	FIRST Union representatives seek meetings with NZ First and Minister Shane Reti.
August 2024	FIRST Union and NZ Ambulance Association / AWUNZ members at St John vote for a national withdrawal of labour.
20th/24th August 2024	FIRST Union and NZAA / AWUNZ withdrawal of labour at St John takes effect.
23rd August 2024	Peter Bradley releases an internal blog to ambulance officers that

	<p>confirms he has sent “<i>at least four letters and (had) five face-to-face meetings with Cabinet Ministers and the Prime Minister in recent months. As I said to a senior Health New Zealand official this week, hearing in the media that we do not want to be 100% funded for all our ambulance service operating costs is simply not correct!</i>”</p>
6 September 2024	<p>FIRST Union officials are notified that NZAA/AWUNZ union leadership have signed the ‘Terms of Settlement’ document on behalf of members and will ratify St John’s pay offer.</p>
13 September 2024	<p>FIRST Union members vote for a second withdrawal of labour after rejecting ratification of a 17-month pay offer from St John</p>
27th and 30th September 2024	<p>(upcoming) FIRST Union members’ next withdrawal of labour to begin at St John, public petition for full Government funding of ambulance services launched</p>