

SEPTEMBER 25 2024

Branch NJC Newsletter

NJC PAY CLAIM 2024 - 2025 .

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Have you returned your ballot?

The NJC Pay ballot is in full campaign mode. The Branch weekly online meetings are being supported and many questions are being asked. One question which crops up is: 'will I have to go on strike if I vote reject'? The answer is 'No'! There is no compulsion for you to go on strike. However, a Reject vote will bring the employer back to the table with the opportunity to negotiate an increased offer. Whatever you decide, the important action you need to take, is to return your completed ballot now.

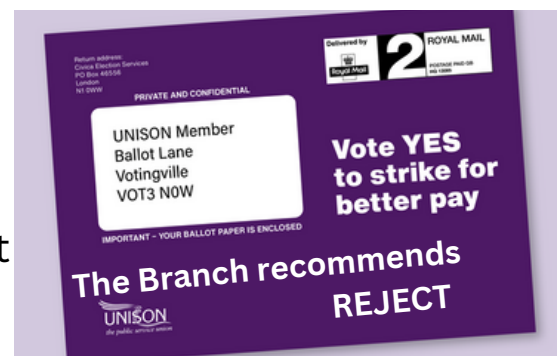


Branch Secretary Notes.

There is no time to delay in returning your pay ballot. If you want an increased offer, or you want to accept the offer of £1290 for a full time worker, post your papers in the return envelope provided. At the Branch we have worked hard to make

this a successful ballot for 2024, the rest is now up to you. Please do join our online meetings and return your papers. I remain confident that our members will deliver a positive result. Unison is the only union who can deliver this, as Unite and the GMB have already accepted the offer, or are not bothering to ballot members. This ballot is not just about saving services, it is about lifting members out of poverty wages. Open your purple envelope and return your paper now.

Your Vote Counts only if you return your ballot



Mike Short, Head of Local Government explains the issues for School and Council Staff

Why should you vote yes for industrial action?

Since that consultation, we have seen a new Labour government take power in Westminster that recognises that public sector workers need adequate pay rises. After taking power, the new chancellor, Rachel Reeves, announced that this government would accept the recommendations of the public sector pay review bodies in full.

Council and school pay is negotiated directly with the local government employers and, as such, the government's decision doesn't necessarily apply to councils and schools. It is up to the employers to improve their offer – though we need the government to do their part by funding it. After years of bearing the worst of public sector pay squeezes, local government cannot be left behind, once again.

With councils across the country nearing 'bankruptcy', how can they afford this?

Over the last 14 years, council budgets have been squeezed to breaking point by a lack of funding from central government. On already skeleton-thin budgets there is predicted to be a £4bn funding gap this year alone for councils in England, Wales and Scotland.

UNISON is sympathetic to the state of public finances which the new government has inherited and they've been left a particularly unenviable task to sort out council and school funding. But the new government must step up and let councils take back control of their finances through higher and longer-term funding settlements. And in the short term they must enable the employers to offer staff a much needed, adequate pay rise.

Voting yes for strike action in this ballot will show your strength of feeling, to the employers and to the government, about your pay. It will demonstrate unequivocally that the time has come for government to step in and address the issues in local government head on.

What the pay offer means

If accepted, the employers offer of £1,290 means that a full time worker, 37 hours per week, will see approximately a 66p per hour pay rise. That represents an increase ranging from 5.8% for those on the lowest pay points, to 2.5% for those on the highest. Inflation was at 13% when the Trade Unions lodged our claim, so this represents a significant loss of pay, wherever you sit on the pay scales. Unison's consultative ballot in June, was an overwhelming rejection at 80%. Members are feeling the hardship of 14 years of pay cuts, now is the time to reverse our lost pay, we can't afford not to.



Check your contact details at: <https://www.unison.org.uk/my-unison/>

Visit the Branches website and click on the NJC Pay 2024 pages for more information:

<https://www.unisoncambridgeshire.org.uk>