

NJC Pay Edition

Vote for better pay and hours

UNISON will shortly be asking members in Local Government and schools (if you are employed on NJC terms and conditions) to vote in an indicative ballot on the Government's latest pay offer. UNISON were calling for a £10 per hour minimum wage and a 10 per cent uplift across all other pay points in 2020/21. We were also calling for a reduction in the working week from 37 hours for full time workers to 35 hours.

A 10 percent increase might sound like a lot but when you look at what has happened to your pay packet in recent years you will see why it is needed. In the last 10 years your pay has fallen behind inflation every year. Rent, shopping, childcare and utility bills have all shot up while your pay has not gone up as fast.

In real terms the average council worker is being paid 22 percent less than they were for the equivalent job in 2010. Imagine if your manager called a team meeting and said "From next week we are no longer paying you for Fridays we want you to work that day for free." No one would show up on Friday. Yet effectively by letting your pay fall behind year by year that is what the employers have done.

Also what they do to your pay they also do to your pension. Every year your pay is held down below inflation so is the employer's contribution to your workplace pension and if they do this long enough it has a big impact on your retirement income.

In Rochdale Council full time employees work 37 hours a week and a lot of workers feel pressured into doing unpaid overtime on top of this because the cutbacks have left people covering for team members who have been made redundant. In London they work 36 hours a week. In Manchester it is 35 hours. The long hours culture doesn't make us more productive. It just leaves people feeling drained and stressed out. A 35 hour week would make a big difference to our quality of life.

The employers side have rejected our claim. They are offering a 2.75% pay rise and no decrease in working hours.

The money is there to pay for the changes the union wants. Public sector workers have worked hard to keep things going throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. Britain is still a wealthy country and many billionaires have only increased their cash piles during the last few months. If they paid their taxes better pay and conditions would be easily affordable.

Please make sure we have your up to date details and particularly your email address. Please use your vote when the indicative ballot comes out.

www.joinunison.org

Call UNISON
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