

Unison General Secretary Elections 2020

Dave Prentis, our current General Secretary, has announced he is to retire on 31 December 2020. An election will be held to appoint a new General Secretary. The current list of prospective candidates is as follows: Paul Holmes, Christina McAnea, Roger McKenzie and Hugo Pierre.

Rochdale Local Government Branch Committee voted to nominate Paul Holmes as the branch's preferred candidate.

A members ballot will run from 28th October to 27 November 2020 and a result will be issued on 11 January 2021.

The branch has copies of the candidates' manifesto's. Please email unison@rochdale.gov.uk if you would like us to send you a copy

UNISON victory on travel and waiting time for care workers

A recent legal victory for UNISON members has major implications for thousands of people working in care across the UK.

The workers who were employed by companies commissioned by Harringey Council were employed to provide care for people in their own homes. They were being paid from when they arrived at the person's home to when they left but not for the time they were travelling in between jobs. If there was a period during their shift when no work had been given to them then they were not being paid for that either.

Some were being given three hours of care work a day, but were travelling for hours more, or just waiting. By the time you calculate the pay against the actual hours they had worked in a day the hourly rate could be as little as £3.27 an hour

UNISON lawyers represented the workers at an employment tribunal and the tribunal agreed that what the employers were doing was wrong..

The tribunal accepted that they had breached the National Minimum Wage Act by paying some care staff less than the minimum wage.

The judgment from the tribunal acknowledged UNISON's claim that travelling and waiting time of up to 60 minutes between appointments should be treated as working time and paid at the minimum wage.

The workers will now receive an average settlement of around £10,000 each in backdated earnings.

If you work in social care and you think this issue might affect you please contact the branch on 01706 925952 or email us unison@rochdale.gov.uk

www.joinunison.org

Call UNISON
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