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Extra £160 a month will not cover rising bills

The Government are offering council and school workers a pay rise of £1925 this year. That sounds like a lot of money. But inflation is rocketing up. So what does the offer mean for you?

£1925 works out at £160 per month. Most of us will pay £32 income tax on that so you are left with £128 per month extra.

The average household energy bill alone is set to increase by £127 a month by October and even more in April.

Average rents are going up by £80 a month.

Interest rates on Mortgages going up £50 per month.

Shopping bills have already gone up by an average of £31 per month

The cost of childcare for children under two has gone up by £27 per month.

The average driver is spending an extra £32 per month on petrol.

Overall inflation including housing costs is currently 11.8%. It could rise to as high as 15% by next year.

Our claim for this year's pay increase was for £2000 or **inflation** whichever was higher. Inflation is now much higher than £2000 a year. This table shows what you get if you take the Government's offer and what UNISON are asking for:

Current Salary	Government Offer	UNISON's Claim	Difference Per Year
£18,887	£20,812	£21,116	-£304
£20,444	£22,369	£22,856	-£487
£24,920	£26,845	£27,861	-£1,016
£30,095	£32,020	£33,646	-£1,626
£37,568	£39,493	£42,001	-£2,508

Can you afford to lose so much every year because of yet another below inflation pay increase? UNISON will be launching an indicative ballot on the deal on 19th August.

If we have to strike UNISON will pay strike pay for every day you are out.

We can also support people with hardship payments no matter what your pay is if you suffer financial hardship during any strike.

Scottish UNISON members have already been balloted and voted for strike action against their below inflation offer.

UNISON North West LGBT+ AGM 3rd September

The UNISON North West LGBT+ Group will hold its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 3rd September 2022 from 1100 – 1500 hours at the UNISON North West Regional Offices, Arena Point, 1 Hunts Bank, Manchester, M3 1UN.

We encourage people to attend in person however we will facilitate virtual access for anyone who specifically requests it.

The meeting is open to any UNISON member who self defines as lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans plus (LGBT+) and is in a branch based in the North West Region. Travel and appropriate meal expenses will be covered by the committee, and lunch will be provided.

Various positions are up for election at the AGM. A list of roles and descriptions of those roles are attached. We also welcome the submission of motions and amendments to our constitution, a copy of which is attached. Motions and amendments will require a proposer and a seconder, and the proposer will be expected to move the motion at the AGM. The deadline for returning nominations, motions and constitutional amendments is Midday on Friday 12th August 2022 and should be sent to Nicola Bowering by email.

Please register for the event via Eventbrite below and paperwork will be circulated by Monday 22nd August. If you have any access requirements or wish to attend remotely, please also email Nicola Bowering (n.bowering@unison.co.uk).

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unison-nw-lgbt-group-agm-tickets-387722918687>

We will also be running awareness training for those intending to attend UNISON LGBT+ Conference after the meeting.

Members are encouraged to join our mailing list by completing the online form at <http://www.unisonnw.org/lgbtsubscribe> and follow us on social media. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

UNISON can help if you are struggling

You may have financial difficulties for all sorts of unexpected reasons, such as:

- Loss of income;
- Relationship breakdown;
- Bereavement;
- Suffering from a long illness;
- Needing to buy equipment because of a disability;
- Caring for someone with special needs or an illness.

What we can help with

There for You is proud to support thousands of members and their families every year with things such as:

- general living costs
- household appliances
- urgent repairs
- disability equipment and adaptations
- utility bills
- funeral costs.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for financial assistance, you must have been a member of UNISON for at least four weeks and up-to-date with your subscriptions. Also, that the financial difficulties that led you to apply occurred after you joined. Partners or dependents can also apply.

To apply, please download an application form, fill it out and return it to us along with scans, screenshots or photos of your supporting paperwork.

https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2020/11/TFY_application_for_assistance.docx

If you have difficulty completing the form, email us at thereforyou@unison.co.uk or call 020 7121 5620 and leave a message with your contact details. We will be in touch as soon as possible to help you through the process.

Please check that your UNISON colleagues have received this newsletter electronically—if not please ask them to contact the branch on 01706 925952 or email_unison@rochdale.gov.uk so we can update their membership record