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Pay Justice Now!

UNISON have submitted our pay claim for workers in local government and schools for 2024/25. We want to see a pay increase of £3000 or 10% whichever is the higher. We are also fighting for:

A review of the gender, ethnicity and disability pay gaps.

A 2 hour reduction in the working week with no loss of pay.

An additional day of annual leave for personal or well-being purposes (with term time only staff also receiving a full day rather than a pro rata amount, that they can use at any time, including term time)

A phased approach to reaching a minimum pay rate of £15 an hour in a maximum of two years, sooner if possible

The Government of billionaires and millionaires will complain that they cannot afford it while at the same time giving out tax cuts to its rich mates. Over £30 billion a year of tax is lost to avoidance, fraud and non-payment. More than enough to fund a decent pay rise.

Our cost of living is still increasing

The Resolution Foundation estimates that annual repayments for those re-mortgaging in 2024 are set to rise by £2,900 on average. The price of housing remains one of the biggest issues facing employees and their families and though the rate of increase in house prices has slowed, private rental prices have seen average monthly rent for new tenancies in the UK push up by 9.6% to £1,283 in October 2023.

The cost of childcare was revealed by the annual Coram Family and Childcare Survey published in March 2023, which found that the average cost of a part time (25 hours a week) childcare place for a child under two in a nursery in Britain has risen 5.6% to £7,134 per year, while for a two-year-old that cost has jumped 6.1% to £6,912 per year.

We are expecting the employer's response to our claim soon. If they do not agree to our claim we will be balloting for industrial action. Please make sure we have your

correct membership details. If you have moved in the last few years or changed job role, email address or telephone number please contact the branch. If you are interested in becoming a workplace representative for your team please get in touch. unison@rochdale.gov.uk 01706925952.

Branch Equalities Co-ordinator

Are you interested in promoting equality in the workplace? Then you may be able to help to support Rochdale UNISON members by becoming our branch equality co-ordinator.

Branch equality co-ordinators have a number of important functions. But it is not expected that the office holder will be the fount of all knowledge on every equality issue, nor carry sole responsibility for the branch's equality work.

Everyone shares responsibility for tackling prejudice and discrimination and promoting equality.

The role of branch equality co-ordinators is to co-ordinate and monitor this shared responsibility. The role includes:

- being the identified and well-publicised point of contact in the branch for equality issues;
- collecting and sharing information on equalities issues, including information from the regional and national self-organised groups;
- making sure other branch officers and the branch committee consider the equalities dimension of everything they do;
- making sure equality is raised in all collective bargaining – not just in bargaining on 'pure' equalities issues;
- encouraging and supporting the development of branch self-organised groups on behalf of the branch committee, co-ordinating among them and between them and the branch committee;
- making sure new recruits and potential members know about UNISON's commitment to equality and the opportunity to take part in self-organisation;
- advising the branch officers and branch committee on the development and monitoring of the action plan to achieve proportionality and fair representation;
- co-ordinating the development and training of members from under-represented groups;
- co-ordinating motions and support for delegates attending self-organised group conferences.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in then please contact the branch 01706925952 unison@rochdale.com

School Uniform Grants

UNISON will soon be providing grants of £75 to pay for school uniforms.

The grant will open on 29 May 2024 for 750 applications at 8.30am and again for another 750 applications at 5pm. You will not be able to apply before these times.

We anticipate high demand for these grants; and due to limited funding, we're unable to accept more applications.

Please ensure you read the below information to check if you are eligible for the grant.

If you are unable to complete the application due to an accessibility need, please email: sug@unison.co.uk or call UNISONdirect on 0800 0 857 857.

School Uniform Grant 2024 Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be a UNISON member and have paid at least four weeks' subscriptions as of 29 May 2024. Subscriptions must be up to date.
- Not have received a grant from UNISON Welfare since 29 November 2023, excluding the Energy Support Fund or Winter Fuel Grant.
- Have savings (including the total rolling balance on current accounts) below £1,000 to qualify.
- Be financially responsible for school-aged child(ren) and receiving Child Benefit for them**. By school-aged, we mean children aged between 4 and 17 years old, who will be returning to school in the autumn.

And EITHER:

Be on a low income, meaning a net household income* of no more than £26,000/year (£2,166.67/month)

OR:

Be in receipt of means-tested benefits.

For further information and the page where you will need to log on to apply for the grant go to: <https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/school-uniform-grant-2/>

Migrant Worker Info Sessions

Unison is proud to support all workers and we recognise that there are specific issues facing migrant workers.

Our migrant workers will be holding a number of information sessions.

They'll be just 30 minutes long and will take place at 12 Noon on the 16th and 17th of May.

They will cover topics like:

- What is a Trade Union?
- Migrant workers' rights
- Discrimination
- How to organise in your workplace!

Register now at the link below or by clicking [here](#).

Also, why not join the **UNISON Migrant Worker Network**?

Members of the network receive advice, support and information specifically tailored specifically to migrant worker members.

https://www.unison.org.uk/unison-migrant-worker-network/?utm_campaign=May%20Day%20Social%20Care&utm_content=Join%20the%20UNISON%20Migrant%20Worker%20Network&utm_medium=email&utm_source=North%20West



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](mailto:email.unison@rochdale.gov.uk) so we can update their membership record