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### Local government unions agree to accept pay offer for 2023

UNISON and the other local government unions, GMB and Unite, yesterday decided to accept the employers' pay offer for 2023, for council and school workers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The decision does not affect the [ongoing local government pay dispute in Scotland](#).

It means an increase of £1,925 on all NJC (National Joint Council) pay points, pro rata'd for part-time and term time only staff. This will be backdated to 1 April 2023. Following the results of its ballots in the summer, UNISON's NJC committee made the decision not to pursue industrial action. In their joint statement, the unions thanked members for their patience while they worked to resolve the dispute.

UNISON's head of local government Mike Short said today: "The local government unions have agreed a pay increase of £1,925 for council and school workers for 2023. Our first priority is to get this money into members' pay packets as soon as possible. But pay in local government remains a major concern for UNISON, and we're planning a strong, positive campaign for a fair pay rise in 2024."

Members with questions about the pay offer can contact their branch directly, or check the FAQs at the bottom of the [NJC pay page](#).

### UNISON calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza

UNISON supports the call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and Israel to allow the delivery of vital humanitarian assistance. The union condemns the rising death toll of Palestinian civilians – especially among children – caused by Israel's bombardment of Gaza. We express our concern at the collapse of vital public services – particularly healthcare – and reiterate our call for the release of all the hostages being held by Hamas.

UNISON encourages our members and branches to take action calling for a ceasefire, including joining peaceful protests and contacting their members of parliament. UNISON will be making donations to [Medical Aid for Palestinians](#) and the [Red Cross](#) and encourages branches to do the same. UNISON is deeply concerned by the dramatic increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents. Anti-racism and the right to be treated with dignity and respect, irrespective of race or creed, are fundamental values of our union. All members should be able to feel safe in their places of work and the communities in which they live.

Finally, UNISON calls on the British government and the international community to support a ceasefire leading to renewed talks aimed at achieving a viable Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel, as the only way to secure long-term peace in the Middle East. There will be a protest outside Number One Riverside, Rochdale at 2pm on Sunday 19th November to call for a ceasefire.

### **Financial assistance**

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 dependants 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.

If you have difficulty completing the form, email us at [thereforyou@unison.co.uk](mailto: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.

### **Get the Shell out of our pensions- 1st December Droylsden**

Council workers, school workers and others have pensions with the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. Figures recently revealed show that the fund has £1.7 billion invested in fossil fuel companies such as Shell and BP. These companies continue to drill for more oil and gas even though we must immediately transition to a fossil free energy and transport system to avoid a climate catastrophe. GMPF has been warned by the Bank of England that these investments risk becoming stranded assets (money invested in companies that will become worthless when oil, coal and gas can no longer be burned). There will be a protest to call on councillors to take our money out of fossil fuels at 8.30 am on Friday 1st December at Guardsman Tony Downes House, Droylsden (just next to the tram stop). If you would like to travel there with someone from the branch please email [unison@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:unison@rochdale.gov.uk)

More information: <https://www.fossilfreegm.org.uk/>

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