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Reject below inflation offer - Vote Yes for Action over pay

UNISON are currently carrying out an indicative ballot of our members in local government and schools over the Government's latest pay offer.

The Government offer of £1290 does not come anywhere near the union's claim for 10 percent or £3000 (whichever is the greater). For all grades this is a below inflation offer meaning that once again our pay falls behind.

The Resolution Foundation estimates that annual repayments for those re-mortgaging in 2024 are set to rise by £2,900 on average.

Private rental prices have seen average monthly rent for new tenancies in the UK push up by 9.6% to £1,283.

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.

Our income tax bills are going up because the Government have frozen the threshold where you start paying tax.

Our pay has fallen by 25% since 2010. A large rise is needed to begin to restore it to its previous value.

The indicative ballot has begun and you should get an email or if you are not on email a paper ballot soon. Voting closes on **Friday 28 June at midday**.



Financial help from UNISON

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.

For more information and to apply follow the link to: <https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/financial-assistance/>



Councils face 'existential crisis' without proper investment from next government

In a new white paper produced by the Local Government Association this month they have calculated that Councils face a £6.2 billion shortfall in the next 2 years.

Local Government funding has already been cut back by over 40% since 2010.

Commenting on the report UNISON's head of Local Government Mike Short said:

"Wave after wave of budget cuts to essential services has harmed communities immensely, with the worst off always the hardest hit.

"Authorities have been forced to sell off buildings, open spaces and other prized assets, and cut thousands of jobs. But still their books won't balance – and now scores of town halls face effective bankruptcy.

"Without a sustained programme of proper investment many more will go under. This cannot be allowed to happen. Local services, and the councils that provide them, are too important to lose."



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