

GMB NATIONAL POLITICAL FUND BALLOT **URGENT ACTION REQUIRED**



Dear Colleague

The GMB is about to ballot members on whether we should continue to have a Political Fund. We are required to do this, by law, every 10 years.

This legal requirement was imposed by Maggie Thatcher in 1984, with the express purpose of destroying the Labour Party and union link. No such rules were brought in to curb the political activity of rich bankers or private sector companies. That's because their money goes to the Tories.

Thatcher's nasty little scheme backfired when members of every union that had a political fund voted to keep it and unions without one decided to set one up.

Since then, unions have had to ballot every 10 years and every time the members have said "Yes."

Why?

Because the fund isn't just about financing the Labour Party.

It's about campaigning to improve the lives of GMB members and their families, provide new opportunities and make sure that their achievements lead the way for working people in Britain and across the world.

It's about campaigning to end exploitation, discrimination and injustice.

What is the Political Fund?

The Political Fund isn't about party politics; it's about your union being able to campaign. If the GMB want to campaign on a whole host of issues, we have to have a political fund. If we hadn't had one during the last ten years, we wouldn't have been able to campaign for better pay, terms and conditions across the UK or to secure a living wage for low paid workers. We certainly wouldn't have been able to campaign to save our NHS, for free school meals or against Zero hours contracts. A political fund isn't about political parties; it's about our members having a voice.

That's why it matters.

The GMB recommends that you vote 'yes' in the political fund ballot so that we can continue campaigning on your behalf.

1. The National Political Fund Ballot is now taking place.
2. Members' Ballot Papers will be inside the next edition of the Pulse magazine which is due to be delivered to you in the next few days.
3. The GMB is recommending you vote yes.
4. We need you to vote 'Yes' and return your ballot paper by no later than the **18th August 2014.**

If we do not get a yes vote, we will no longer be able to campaign on members' behalf for all of the issues that matter to you and your families.

Kind regards

Steve Jennings MCIPD

Senior Organiser/Political Officer

IF YOU WANT A CAMPAINING UNION!

