



P/15/12
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LOCAL GOVT PAY TALKS UPDATE

Following the submission of the 2013 TU side pay claim for local government services there have been a series of discussions between national employer representatives and ourselves. These discussions have revolved around the national employers' view that local authorities did want to make an offer for 2013 to break the 3 year pay freeze but that this would be of low value and would have 'reforms to national terms and conditions' (what we call strings) attached.

Local government has been through a serious financial crisis mainly due to government austerity cuts. As well as local communities, much of this has fallen on council staff. Not only the 3 year freeze; not only the refusal to pay the £250 the rest of the public sector got; not even the 240,000 job losses; but also the local attacks on terms and conditions; all these things mean that the local government workforce has every cause to say 'enough is enough'.

We have therefore told the national employers today that a tiny pay offer with detrimental changes to conditions attached will not be acceptable and there is little point discussing it. We have said 'put your best offer on the table with no strings' and we will consider that with our members.

Talks on this basis will resume in the New Year and I hope we will have a positive response. I will of course keep you informed.

Brian Strutton

Brian Strutton
National Secretary - Public Services Section

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