



## Trade Union Rich List 2017

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Research conducted by the TaxPayers' Alliance has uncovered the high pay received by many public sector trade union leaders. This new research reveals that many trade union bosses receive six-figure remuneration packages including very high salaries and incredibly generous pensions and other benefits. This includes trade unions that receive substantial subsidies at taxpayers' expense.

Our research reveals that 45 public sector trade union bosses receive more than £100,000 each year in salary and benefits. This places them comfortably within the top 5 per cent of earners in the UK. Moreover, it also places them in the category of 'wealthy' as defined by the Labour Party's Shadow Chancellor, John McDonnell.<sup>1</sup>

The public sector union boss who was most generously remunerated was the General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, who received £161,548. This places him within the top one per cent of earners in the UK and is £133,948 higher than the national average. The Deputy General Secretary of the Prison Officers Association, the trade union for prison officers, ranked bottom of our list of high earners. However, his remuneration package was still £100,014, which is £72,414 higher than the UK average.

Public sector trade unions are subsidised by the public purse. Therefore, it is taxpayers who are paying for the very high salaries which fund the lavish lifestyles of many trade union bosses. Many trade union bosses are quick to condemn the chief executives of banks and businesses over their huge pay packets. It is difficult to see how it is not at least slightly hypocritical for trade union bosses to criticise 'corporate greed', when they themselves are earning so much more than the average worker – including those who they claim to represent.

<sup>1</sup> Duncan, P. & Bengtsson, H. 'How much do you have to earn to be rich? £70,000, says Labour', *The Guardian*, 19 April 2017

Moreover, many of these trade unions have threatened or undertaken highly disruptive industrial action which has caused misery to members of the public.

## Key Findings

Our research reveals that **45 trade union bosses** were taking home more than **£100,000** in pay and benefits last year. This places them in the **top five per cent** of earners in the UK.<sup>2</sup>

The average salary in the UK is **£27,600**.<sup>3</sup> The General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers was paid **£133,948** more than this.

The General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers pocketed **£161,548**. This places him in **the top one per cent** of earners in the UK.<sup>4</sup>

Paul Kenny and Tim roach at GMB were paid **£263,000** between them last year.

Larry Broderick, General Secretary of IBOA The Finance Union cashed in with **€164,723**.

John Smith who is head of the Musicians Union received **£155,728**.

The General Secretary of the Nationwide Group Staff Union was paid **£153,055**.

Frances O'Grady who is in charge of the Trades Union Congress is on **£152,365**.

The General Secretary of the International Transport Workers Federation, Stephen Cotton, is also flying high on **£149,005**.

Cathy Warwick of the Royal College of Midwives received **£140,670** last year.

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<sup>2</sup> HMRC, 'Personal Income Statistics', 2 March 2017

<sup>3</sup> ONS, 'Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings', 26 October 2016

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*

Table 1: Total Remuneration of Public Sector Trade Union Leaders

Union	Name	Position Held	Total Remuneration (Salary and Benefits) (£)
GMB	Split between Paul Kenny and Tim Roach.	General Secretary	263,000
IBOA The Finance Union (salaries In Euros)	Larry Broderick	General Secretary	164,723
National Association of Head Teachers	Russell Hobby	General Secretary	161,548
Musicians Union	John Smith	General Secretary	155,728
Nationwide Group Staff Union	Tim Poil	General Secretary	153,055
Trades Union Congress	Frances O'Grady	General Secretary	152,365
International Transport Workers Federation	Stephen Cotton	General Secretary	149,005
Royal College of Midwives	Cathy Warwick	Professor	147,139
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	Karen Middleton	Chief Executive	140,670
Community	Roy Rickhuss	General Secretary	140,474
British Air Line Pilots Association	Brian Strutton	General Secretary	140,048
Association of Teachers And Lecturers	Mary Bousted	General Secretary	139,963
National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers	Chris Keates	General Secretary	139,356
Accord	Ged Nichols	General Secretary	139,346
Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers	John Hannett	General Secretary	138,583
National Union of Rail, Maritime, And Transport Workers	Mick Cash	General Secretary	137,349
FDA	Dave Penman	General Secretary	131,890
Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference	Ian Power	Membership Secretary	129,466
Progress	Mike Clancy	General Secretary	129,000
Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference	William Richardson	General Secretary	127,034
British Medical Association	Anthony Dearden	Elected Official BMA Board	126,277
Fire Brigades Union	Matt Wrack	General Secretary	125,812
Educational Institute of Scotland	Larry Flanigan	General Secretary	125,785
University and College Union	Sally Hunt	General Secretary	125,577
Fire Brigades Union	Andy Dark	Assistant General Secretary	124,647
Fire Brigades Union	Unknown	National Officer	123,593
Fire Brigades Union	Unknown	National Officer	119,199
Fire Brigades Union	Unknown	National Officer	117,919

Association of School and College Leaders	Unknown	Interim General Secretary	117,772
UNISON	Dave Prentis	General Secretary	117,617
Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen	M Whelan	General Secretary	117,595
Association of School and College Leaders	Unknown	General Secretary	117,226
Communication Workers Union	Dave Ward	General Secretary	116,573
Royal College of Nursing	Unknown	General Secretary	116,086
United Road Transport Union	Robert Monks	Acting General Secretary	115,588
Nautilus International	Anthony Mark Dickinson	General Secretary	114,087
Affinity	Mark Brown	General Secretary	113,250
National Association of Co-operative Officials	Neil David Buist	General Secretary	110,443
POA	Stephen Gillan	General Secretary	108,735
Society of Authors	Nicola Solomon	Secretary	108,365
Public and Commercial Services Union	Mark Serwotka	General Secretary	107,788
Equity	Christine Payne	General Secretary	107,650
Confederation of Shipbuilding And Engineering Union	Hugh Scullion	General Secretary	101,842
Prison Officers Association	Andy Darken	Deputy General Secretary	100,014

## Sources and References

All information on salaries and benefits in table one was taken from each trade union's most recent return to the Certification Officer.

Duncan, P. & Bengtsson, H. 'How much do you have to earn to be rich? £70,000, says Labour', *The Guardian*, 19 April 2017

HMRC, 'Personal Income Statistics', 2 March 2017.

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