# UNISON NEWS UNISON North West

MAY 2021 MEMBERS NEWSLETTER PHONE NUMBER: 0800 0 857 857

WEBSITE: WWW.UNISON.ORG.UK



# On the 1st April, NHS staff were due a pay rise, but the government has dithered and delayed and NHS staff will still be waiting.

Following the derisory suggestion by the Government that a 1% pay rise would be reasonable reward for NHS staff, UNISON has now provided evidence to the NHS Pay Review Body which is considering its recommendation, due to be announced as an offer in June.

At this point, UNISON will consult with members as to whether the offer is acceptable, and what form of campaign they are willing to commit to if they believe it is not. For this reason, it's crucial that if you're a UNISON member, your details are up to date, including your e-mail address. You can check by contacting UNISON direct on 0800 0 857 857.

We know that the public support a fair pay rise for NHS workers. Whilst we await the pay review body's recommendation, we need to keep the pressure on decision makers to call on the Government to reward NHS staff properly for the sacrifices they have made to support the UK through the pandemic.

There are four things you can do right now to help prepare for our consultation on the forthcoming pay offer and campaign for a fair deal:

- Update your details with UNISON at https://www.unison.org.uk/update-your-details/
- Put NHS pay campaign materials on noticeboards in your department – they can be downloaded at <a href="https://www.unisonnw.org/2daysfor2k"><u>www.unisonnw.org/2daysfor2k</u></a>
- Write to your MP using our quick MP contact tool online see details on the right

## Lobby Your MP for a Fair Pay Rise

After a year of COVID, health workers are exhausted, stressed, and burnt out. But despite falling cases, there are still huge challenges facing NHS staff. They've got to work hard to help the NHS recover and look after every person whose treatment has been delayed.



### Now more than ever health workers need a morale boost.

Whether the new pay deal shows NHS staff are truly appreciated by government, or brings morale to an all-time low, is in the hands of our MPs.

NHS pay is in the hands of our politicians, and it's time for our MPs to speak out.

## Write to your MP by visiting

.unisonnw.org/writempnhspay

## Privatised security staff in East Lancs win substantial pay rise

Outsourced security staff at East Lancashire NHS trust have been victorious in their campaign for equal pay with their NHS colleagues. Further than that, the service has been insourced and now the staff will be managed within the NHS and receive all the benefits that come with that.

The staff achieved this after a months long campaign involving petitions, photo campaigns, and videos. A strike ballot earlier this year saw 93% turnout with 100% of members voting for action. This was the last straw for the employer Engie who agreed to talks with the trust that led to this result.

UNISON Organiser Rebecca Lumberg said: "Hospital security workers keep patients and staff safe. They have put themselves at increased risk working during the pandemic and they fully deserve the NHS pay and conditions that they will now receive."



#### **HCA Campaign Update**



Following years of campaigning, UNISON has begun talks with MFT, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust and Wigan, Wrightington and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust to seek a resolution to the long-standing issue of Healthcare Assistants being underpaid for their work in these employers.

UNISON members have called for a resolution to the historic issue where swathes of band 2 staff have been expected to undertake band 3 duties but have not been paid at the correct rate.

It is hoped that the current talks with three Greater Manchester trusts will result in a framework agreement outlining how affected staff will be compensated, how any re-banding process would work, and what back pay affected staff will receive in those employers. The talks are a positive step forward, with all three employers and UNISON recognising that this is a problem which needs to be resolved.

#### Members' Covid-19 Survey



As Covid-19 numbers continue to reduce and we start to move back to more normality, UNISON members must continue to look after themselves and ensure that their employers begin to take or continue to take the necessary steps to ensure your wellbeing.

With this in mind, we have launched a survey about your experiences over the last year and what you would like to see your employer and your union do in the future.

You can access the survey at <u>unisonnw.org/covidsurvey</u>.

#### Update your details-Consultation on Pay



The government's derisory pay offer of 1% has caused widespread anger from UNISON members.

With that in mind it is vitally important that members are prepared for any escalation in pay negotiations with the government.

The first step in this will be a consultation and it is absolutely vital that UNISON has the correct contact details for you in order to carry this through.

Due to anti-trade union laws that mean you have to be balloted from home, without your correct details, we simply cannot act.

So, if you have changed address, email address or phone number in the last year, please contact UNISON Direct on 0800 0 857 857 or visit <a href="https://www.unison.org.uk/update-your-details/">https://www.unison.org.uk/update-your-details/</a>

Do this as soon as possible and make sure to talk to your colleagues about updating their details too. This is an absolutely crucial step in fighting for the pay rise you deserve.

#### **Become a UNISON Rep:**

Trained, active, confident reps are what holds this union together. They're negotiating with employers, representing members, and helping people to take action – whether that's as a workplace representative (steward), a health and safety representative, or union learning representative. They might...

- ... arrange a workplace meeting about an issue that affects them and their colleagues
- ... attend branch committee meetings and have a say in negotiations that affect you and your colleagues.
- ... allocate small tasks to members who want to get involved in campaigns
- ... conduct a survey of members in the workplace to collect evidence we can use to drive change for the better

As we enter negotiations around a pay rise, UNISON reps and contacts organising on the ground are going to be the difference between winning a fair settlement and being beaten by the government into accepting the crumbs they propose.

Working for the NHS, it is usually possible to get time off to train to become a rep and your union will support you through the process to ensure that you enjoy it and suffer no detriment. If you think you might be interested contact your branch today or email s.doherty@unison.co.uk

#### Get in touch:

#### We can help

Get in touch with the branch office or your local steward if you have any concerns at work. If you don't have their details please contact UNISON Direct on 0800 0 857 857

#### Keep us updated

Don't forget to update your contact details.

Contact your branch, call UNISON Direct on 0800 0 857 857 or visit <a href="https://www.unison.org.uk/update-your-details/">https://www.unison.org.uk/update-your-details/</a>



membership such as your ballots if relevant any information relating to election information and membership pack, UNISON you information core to your We use this address to send

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2 Tell us about your job

Date of birth

Workplace name and address Your job title or occupation

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By ticking these boxes, you are giving your consent for UNISON to contact you by these means about how we campaign on your behalf

# Help UNISON make a difference

contribution a year to our campaign fund. Please tick your preference below: issues that affect you? You can do this by giving an additional 5% voluntary Will you help UNISON stand up for its members, and speak out publicly on the

# Campaign Fund

union's equalities work. work our members do and supports the The campaign fund promotes better with politicians of any party about the public services, enables the union to talk

> Labour Link campaigns within UNISON Labour Link

the NHS, your employment rights and for quality public services. Parliament for UNISON policy on the Labour Party locally and in

at the moment. (Those who choose not to

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I do not wish to contribute to campaigning

☐ No thank you

as compared with members who do opt in.) opt in will not be disadvantaged in any way

Debit

For campaign fund only – instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

UNISON Freepost (no other address needed) Please complete the form and send it to:

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To the manager bank / building society

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Office use only Service 9 7 0 0 5 0	Account number
Office use only Membership	Branch sort code

Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee Please pay UNISON Direct Debits from the account detailed in this will be passed electronically to my bank/building society. I understand that this Instruction may remain with UNISON and, if so, details

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of accoun