

UNISON members at SLT Fight Back

In response to SLT planning to dismiss and re-engage all staff to move them away from national pay, terms and conditions (the NJC) UNISON members voted 69% for industrial action on a 72% turnout – smashing the Government's 50% ballot threshold.

On 3rd September UNISON members leafletted the ward of the Acting Council Leader in just two hours – see the socially distanced gathering below. The leaflet called upon the Council to up-hold Labour values and step in and prevent an unnecessary, damaging industrial dispute.

Following further political lobbying by UNISON's Regional Office Sandwell Council finally stepped in to try and prevent staff being forced to leave national pay, terms and conditions. The result has been a four-week suspension of SLT's plans to dismiss and re-engage whilst talks between the Council and SLT take place. In response, the trade unions have suspended taking any industrial action in the four-week period.

However, should SLT not withdraw their proposals entirely then our members are prepared to take strike action and undertake further leafletting in the wards of key Councillors. Latest updates will be posted on the Branch website at www.sandwellunison.co.uk.



Job Support Scheme at SLT?

Following lockdown not all leisure centres have fully reopened yet, with some staff remaining on the furlough scheme, which ends at the end of October.

After consulting members, UNISON is seeking to negotiate the application of the Government's new Job Support Scheme to avoid redundancies. This scheme sees staff working at least a third of their contracted hours for a minimum pay of 77% of their contracted salary. If staff work more than a third of their hours, then they receive a greater proportion of their salary.

General Secretary Election

The general secretary election is your chance to vote to elect the most senior person in the union. Being a member, or retired member, of UNISON entitles you to a vote if you were a member on 28 July 2020.

Who is the general secretary?

The general secretary represents you and the other 1.3 million members of UNISON in meetings with politicians across the UK, in discussions with employers and when working with other trade unions. They speak up for you and are the public face of your union, in the press, on TV and on social media. Dave Prentis, the union's current general secretary retires at the end of 2020 after 20 years in the job.

This is your chance to have a say in who leads the union and who represents all our members. The election only comes around every five years so use your vote and make sure your voice is heard.

The ballot opens on **28 October** so please look out for your ballot paper, which will be sent by post to your home address. Make sure you post your completed ballot in plenty of time to CES by 5pm on November 27. It will be freepost, so don't worry about a stamp. If you lose your ballot paper, please call our ballot helpline free on **0800 0 857 857**.

Sandwell General Nominates Roger McKenzie 4 General Secretary

Your Branch Committee of Stewards and Officers voted to nominate Roger McKenzie in the General Secretary Election.

Further details about the election can be found at <https://www.unison.org.uk/about/our-organisation/lay-structure-democracy-and-elections/current-elections/general-secretary-election-make-vote-count/>