

2021 NJC Pay Offer of 1.5% Rejected

The employers for council workers and school support staff have finally made a pay offer that was due on 1 April 2021.

“The National Employers wish to make the following one-year offer:

- With effect from 1 April 2021, an increase of 1.50 per cent on all NJC pay points 1 and above
- Completion of the outstanding work of the joint Term-Time Only review group.”

UNISON head of local government Jon Richards said: “This is a disappointing offer, especially after a year in which council staff have done so much to help local communities gripped by the pandemic. Council staff will feel that their efforts over the past 15 months haven’t been recognised.”

All 3 trade unions have since rejected the offer and have requested further negotiations. The chances are there will be a consultative ballot on whether to accept the offer or ballot for industrial action.

Inflation Goes Up

Inflation went up in May. The RPI index went up to 3.3% and the CPI index hit 2.1%. This means that the pay offer of 1.5% represents another pay cut in real terms. Staff in schools and councils have already seen the real value of their pay drop by 20% since 2010. Do we deserve another real term pay cut after so many have been vital for helping the Country through the pandemic?

Britain’s Billionaires Rake it in

You may not have seen the Sunday Times Rich list for 2021 but it showed that Britain’s Billionaires have gained massively during the pandemic.

So, whilst millions have been furloughed and food parcels got delivered whilst poverty increased, Britain’s 171 Billionaires increased their wealth by more than 20% during the pandemic! There are 24 more Billionaires in Britain than a year ago.

Home Working Allowance Requested

Staff usually based in offices have largely been working from home for 15 months now, and it seems unlikely to change in the near future. The Council’s plan to provide only 2 desks for every 10 workers means many will be largely working from home in the future too. Effectively privatising the cost of providing a workplace from the employer to the individual.

The Joint Trade Unions have lodged a request with the Council for a homeworking allowance of £500 per year. This is based on the fact that Councillors receive an annual broadband allowance of £180 per year – plus the HMRC recognised tax allowance rate of £312 per year.

Got a Sickness Meeting?

Whatever the stage, if you get called to a meeting to discuss your sickness, contact UNISON straight away.

You are entitled to be represented by your trade union.

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