

The Cost of Living Soars

Inflation as measured by the Retail Price Index has already hit 7.1% - the highest for three decades. Prices are predicted to rise even further, and it is widely being reported that energy prices are set to rise by 50% in April!

In April we also see our take home pay reduced as the 1.25% National Insurance increase comes into effect.

This makes pay offers such as the 2021 NJC one of just 1.75% look more insulting as the months pass by.

At the time of writing the result from the ballot on the 2021 NJC pay offer is still unknown. Please check the Branch website www.sandwellunison.co.uk for when the results do get announced.

However, unless at least 50% of members use their postal vote your union will not be able to call any legal industrial action, nor place any more pressure on the employers to improve their pay offer. If more than 50% do vote, then the union is likely to call industrial action if members voted to do so.

Pay in 2022

If we do not secure the 50% turnout for the 2021 NJC offer, then the challenge is to ensure such turnouts are reached for all employers during 2022. Legally all formal industrial action ballots must be conducted via the post and therefore it is vital that all members look out for ballot papers – and more importantly remember to vote and post them back. Otherwise, the real value of our pay will continue to fall further behind the cost of living.

Did You Know?

That trade unions can only call lawful industrial action if at least 50% of those balloted actually vote and also give a majority vote for industrial action.

Your AGM 2022 Thursday 3rd March 5:45pm

All Branch members are invited to the Annual General Meeting of Sandwell General UNISON Branch. You will receive a formal invite by post.

At this meeting you will receive reports from Branch Officers, hear the election results for Branch Officers in the year ahead and discuss/debate any motions submitted.

The guest speaker this year is the Vice President of UNISON, Andrea Egan.

Depending on what is happening with the pandemic the AGM will either be held in person at the Council Chambers in Sandwell Council House, Oldbury or online via GoTo meetings.

We hope to see you there.

Please register your interest to attend to receive the agenda and any links to the meeting.

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