

May Ballot over 2023/24 Pay Offer

The NJC pay offer for 2023/24, which covers council workers and school support staff, has been received. The claim was for RPI inflation plus 2% and based on the Treasury's own forecast of RPI inflation being 10.7% for the year, making the claim 12.7%.

RPI inflation for February 2023 was 13.8%.

The offer received is for £1,925 on all pay points up to pay point 43 and thereafter the pay award is just 3.88%. This is based on full time workers. Part time workers will receive a pro rata amount per hours worked.

On all pay points the offer represents a below inflation offer and therefore represents a further pay cut in real terms. This is on top of the 25% loss in real terms pay for council workers and school support staff since 2010. It does nothing to address the recruitment and retention crisis hitting many service areas.

On this basis the national NJC committee for UNISON has decided to move directly to a formal industrial action ballot, which is due to begin 23rd May. Sister trade unions are expected to do likewise.

If you want to accept the offer, then it is important to vote. Likewise, if you want to fight for a better pay offer like so many public sector workers have begun to, then it is also important you use your vote.

By law, ballot papers must be sent to your home and posted back. Make sure your union has the correct home address for you so you can take part.

We urge all members to vote.

Ballots will be conducted on a disaggregated basis meaning each ballot will be with each employer. This makes every vote count in your employer.

Proposed Increases to Parking Charges

UNISON organised a quick petition for staff to object to the incredibly steep proposed increases in parking charges that was due to be decided upon in March and implemented from April. Over 300 staff in under a couple of weeks signed the petition and it was presented to the Council Leader. A decision has been delayed until June and we are now expecting employer/trade union discussions to take place prior to then.

Sandwell College

UNISON members are currently being consulted on what the 2023/24 pay claim should be. Any award applies from September. Ballot papers have been sent out and the vote will decide what claim will be submitted to the College. All members are urged to use their vote.

SIPS

UNISON members in SIPS voted for a pay claim of Inflation (RPI) + 2%. We are still awaiting a meeting with management to discuss the pay claim and receive a pay offer – this is set for the end of March. UNISON will then ask members to vote on whatever pay offer is received.

Serco in Sandwell

The joint trade unions at Serco submitted a joint pay claim in February. The claim is for 15% plus an uplift in leave entitlement and sick pay to NJC levels for all staff. Currently there are two-tier terms and conditions at Serco. An offer is expected early April and members will be consulted on whether they find it acceptable or not.

Branch Nominations to the NEC

Elections to the NEC (National Executive Council), which is the democratic body that oversees the union, begin on 17 April and end 19 May. Ballot papers will be delivered to your home address. Check [Branch Nominations to the NEC – Sandwell](#) [General UNISON Branch \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](http://sandwellunison.co.uk)

Ready to Receive Your Ballot Paper?

Is your address held by UNISON correct?

If you know it needs updating then simply use [My UNISON | UNISON National](#) to check your details (you will need your membership number), or simply email sandwellunison@btconnect.com to update your address.