

Strike Myth Busters

Q - Will striking break my length of service?

A – No. Your employment terms relating to your length of service remain exactly the same.

Q – Does striking break the length of my pension?

A – Strike action does not affect the continuity of your local government pension. Because you lose one day's pay for a day of strike action your contributions are one day less, and this is recorded as a 'break'. You can make any loss good by paying more in, however most don't because of the minimal impact upon your pension.

Serco

Serco finally made an offer of 6% for 2023/24. UNISON members will vote on this offer to accept or reject and call for an industrial action ballot. Results will be posted on www.sandwellunison.co.uk

College

UNISON members voted by 71% for a 2023/24 pay claim of 10%. This claim has been submitted to the employer and we are awaiting discussions. Once an offer has been received there will be a postal vote for all college members on whether to accept or reject the offer.

NEU Strikes in Schools

The NEU teachers' union are still taking strike action for a better 2022/23 pay deal than the one imposed.

Advice for UNISON members in schools can be found here [UNISON advice on school strikes by NEU – Sandwell General UNISON Branch \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](http://www.sandwellunison.co.uk)

In short, you should continue to work as normal and **NOT** undertake any additional duties or tasks to cover for teachers' taking strike action.

Depending on UNISON's ballot results the prospect for joint trade union action in September looms.

End the Recruitment Crisis

The reduction of public sector pay in real terms over the last 13 unlucky years means there is now a recruitment crisis as organisations struggle to attract new staff into vital roles. Some are paying higher agency worker rates to fill gaps. Some introducing 'market supplements' to try and recruit into roles such as social workers.

Fighting for better pay is about fighting for the public services we all provide.

For your pay and your service make sure you and your colleagues are in the biggest trade union, UNISON.

Other unions fighting on pay

Teachers in the NEU remain in dispute and will re-ballot to secure a better, funded pay offer.

Lecturers in the UCU continue to fight. Civil servants in the PCS continue their dispute over pay.

Railway workers continue to fight for better pay.

Even Junior Doctors in the BMA are compelled to strike for better pay.

There have been some notable victories over pay, with strikes on the Midland Metro securing a 20% rise and on West Midlands buses a 16.2% rise!

Chief Executive Pay Up 12%!

The median pay package for FTSE 100 company Chief Executives increased by 12% from £3.7million per year to £4.15million per year.

Profit Inflation

Research from Unite the Union found that the UK's largest companies have increased their profits by 89% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Such profiteering accounts for most of the prices rises with Unite calculating that 57% of the increase in inflation is from increased profits alone.

It's not wages causing inflation – it's the increase in profits.

Make sure you and your colleagues are in UNISON

To join UNISON simply use the links below

<https://join.unison.org.uk/>

UNISON

**Britain's & Sandwell's
Biggest Trade Union**

www.sandwellunison.co.uk



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