

Your Pay Votes

The results on the disaggregated NJC strike ballot to fight for a better pay deal for 2023/24 were as follows:-

Sandwell MBC – 69% of UNISON members voted for strike action on a 37% turnout.

Sandwell Childrens Trust – 79% of UNISON members voted for strike action on a 46.5% turnout.

Sandwell Leisure Trust – 87% of UNISON members voted for strike action on a 47% turnout.

The average vote across England and Wales was 75% for strike action on an average turnout of 31.4%. In total 4,342 employers were balloted. In 713 employers UNISON passed the 50% threshold with a mandate for strike action. However, these were mainly small employers, which included several Sandwell schools.

UNISON's national NJC committee met to discuss the results and initially decided to wait for Unite's votes at the end of July. Unite failed to secure the 50% turnout in Sandwell but did meet it in a small number of Councils.

GMB's formal industrial action ballot for *some* of their members was only due to begin in September.

Although there were strong votes for action to fight for better pay, it was acknowledged that the turnout across England & Wales was insufficient to pressurise our employers to offer more. On that basis UNISON made the decision to accept the pay offer of £1,925 on all pay points up to pay point 42 and 3.88% thereafter (pro-rata for part-time workers). This was made in the hope that the additional money would reach your pay sooner rather than later.

Our sister unions disagreed, and in a small number of Council's Unite are taking strike action. GMB are still conducting their ballots and therefore for now are refusing to accept the offer.

This means that the pay award – backdated from 1 April is unlikely to be in your salary until November at the earliest.

UNISON is arguing to accept this year's award so we can move forward and concentrate on the pay claim for 2024/25, where we need to show we can beat the ballot thresholds to win better pay.

Strikes Win Better Pay at Serco

Strike action by the GMB resulted in a 7.5% pay offer being improved to 8.5%. Who knows what could have been achieved if GMB had waited for UNISON and Unite to formally ballot together?

It's Champions Day on Wednesday 18 October! Celebrate the Local Service Champions where you work!

Last year UNISON in Sandwell celebrated our first ever Champions Day by arranging a visit from the Mayor to the team that won. See [Champions Day! – Sandwell General UNISON Branch \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](https://sandwellunison.co.uk)

Do you/your colleagues/your team provide a dedicated service that makes a difference?

Do you/your colleagues/your team deserve recognition for the vital services you provide the public?

Just complete the nomination form and submit it before 6th October. Use the above link for the nomination form.

Make sure you and your colleagues are in UNISON

To join UNISON simply use the link below <https://join.unison.org.uk/>

UNISON
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