

## 2026-27 NJC Pay Claim Submitted

The 2026-27 NJC pay claim for school support staff and local government workers was submitted to the employers on 1 December 2025.

### **The Joint Trade Union (UNISON, GMB and Unite) claim is for:**

- An increase of at least £3,000 or 10% (whichever is greater) across all NJC spinal column points\*
- A minimum pay rate of £15 an hour for the NJC pay spine

### **In addition:**

- A two-hour reduction in the working week
- An increase of one day annual leave
- The ability of all school support staff to take a day of paid leave during term time
- The abolition of Level 1 Teaching Assistant role and instead all Level 1 role holders be moved onto Level 2

Local government pay is worth 26% less in real terms than in 2010 and over ½ million jobs have been cut. There is now a recruitment and retention problem in many job roles.

If a multi-year deal is offered the claim for year 2 is RPI+3% and for year 3 RPI+2%.

To see the claim in full click on [2026-27 NJC Pay Claim Submitted – Sandwell General UNISON Branch](#)

## Andrea Egan Wins Leadership Election

Andrea Egan has been elected as the next general secretary of UNISON, the UK's largest union.

She replaces Christina McAnea who has served as general secretary since 2021.

Andrea will begin her five-year term on 22 January 2026.

Voting in the ballot was as follows:

Andrea Egan 58,579 (59.82%)

Christina McAnea 39,353 (40.18%)

See [Andrea Egan to be next UNISON general secretary](#)

## Your Union's AGM Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March

All members are invited to the 2026 (30<sup>th</sup>) Annual General Meeting of Sandwell General UNISON Branch. Invites are in the post.

There are two opportunities to attend. Either at lunchtime between 1pm and 2pm, where a free buffet will be available for members from 12:45pm. Or at 7:30pm.

**At the AGM there will be an update on what is happening to the pay claims for 2026.**

**Council Chambers  
Sandwell Council House  
Oldbury  
1pm for lunchtime (buffet from 12:45pm) or  
7:30pm for the evening**

Please register your interest to attend to receive the agenda.

Guest speakers at 1pm include:

- Council Leader, Kerrie Carmichael
- Birmingham Uni UNISON, Mike Moore

**Don't miss out on entering the free prize draw for prizes of £250 and £100. Look out for your AGM invite in the post to enter.**

Make sure you and your colleagues are members of Sandwell's biggest trade union

# UNISON

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

