

# RISE UP TO GET PAY UP

**COUNCIL AND SCHOOL PAY 2023**

# GET BALLOT READY

**UNISON has been campaigning for a decent pay rise for council and school workers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We submitted a pay claim for a substantial increase of inflation plus 2%. Based on the Treasury's annual forecast for RPI for 2023, this would amount to 12.7%.**

However, the local government employers have responded with an offer of a flat rate increase of £1,925. In a cost-of-living crisis this simply is not good enough. UNISON members in local government are experiencing the fastest fall in living standards since records began – over the past 12 years, council and school staff have lost on average 25% from the value of their pay when measured against the Retail Price Index (RPI) measure of inflation since 2010.

UNISON is balloting members working in councils and schools to ask if you wish to take industrial action over pay. It's only by taking action that we will send a clear message to employers that you need a better pay rise.

Government laws mean that for us to achieve a mandate for lawful strike action, we need at least 50% of UNISON members to return their ballot paper when the ballot opens.

It's time to prepare and get strike ready now! Here are some quick and easy things you can do today:

▶ **Get your colleagues involved**

Speak to your colleagues about the issue and encourage any new colleagues to become a member of UNISON – it takes 5 minutes to join. Join here <https://join.unison.org.uk>

▶ **Check your details are up to date**

Make sure that you keep your contact information up to date – you can check what details we currently have using MyUNISON. [www.unison.org.uk/my-unison](http://www.unison.org.uk/my-unison)

▶ **Spread the word on social media**

You can spread awareness of the issue and encourage your colleagues, friends and family to get involved by sharing your support using the hashtag [#payup2023](https://twitter.com/payup2023)

▶ **Contact your councillor**

Local councillors can raise this issue directly with local government employers, so we are asking you to email your councillor and convince them to use their influence to support a decent pay rise for the hard-working staff who are tirelessly delivering vital local services  
<https://action.unison.org.uk/page/120529/action/1>

▶ **Take a look at our interactive map**

With councils facing funding shortages we need to make sure that the government provides better investment in local government to pay for services and a decent pay rise for council and school workers. Please lobby your MP by clicking on our interactive map and sending them this message. It's only through better funding that we can secure better pay  
<https://councilcuts.unison.org.uk/data-visualisation/p/1>

**It's time that we rise up to get pay up  
– and we need you to play your part.  
Learn more about our campaign at:  
[unison.org.uk/payup2023](http://unison.org.uk/payup2023)**

