

notts UNISON NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL
EDITION

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2026 Council & School Pay

28 April 2026

NJC OFFER REJECTED: GET READY TO VOTE!

As branches already knew, earlier this month UNISON's NJC Committee met and agreed to REJECT the NJC Employers' pay offer of a 3.3% increase (for England, Cymru and Northern Ireland).

The Committee was clear that the offer falls significantly short of what members in councils and schools need and deserve.

The trade unions' pay claim is affordable. UNISON's research shows that if the Government were to fund our pay claim in full, it would recoup at least half of the money back, due to increased tax revenue and reduced spending on benefits and tax credits.

So our message is clear: we need the employers to make an improved offer, and we need the Government to fund it.

But this won't happen unless we take a stand. The NJC Committee has therefore decided to launch an industrial action ballot in support of our pay campaign.

The ballot will run from 9 July to 6 August in England.

UNISON's reviews of recent pay campaigns made it clear that our previous approach of balloting every single member hasn't always worked. This time round, UNISON will be balloting members in strategically selected target employers, on a disaggregated basis. UNISON have been consulting regions on the selection of employers, and will provide a full list soon.

We need every single UNISON member covered by the NJC to engage in this campaign. For members being balloted for strike action, our message is simple: vote yes for action.

For our members not being balloted, Notts UNISON will be sharing campaign activities that our members can engage in, to support and strengthen the campaign.

So, keep a lookout for emails and on Notts UNISON's Social Media platforms for more updates soon! In the meantime, please visit UNISON's pay campaign web page, and use the campaign resources to help push our campaign for a better pay offer, and for the Government to fund it. We're also asking our members to please share the video made by our General Secretary, Andrea Egan, with your colleagues.

- Visit the campaign web page: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Andrea's campaign video: [Andrea Egan: Council & School Pay Campaign 2026](#)
- Contact: NJCpay2026@unison.co.uk

Correct as of 5th May 2026

CURRENT NEWS FROM UNISON'S WEBPAGE:

2026 Pay Offer Rejected

In March 2026, the NJC Employers' Side made a pay offer of 3.3% on all pay points.

In April 2026, UNISON's NJC Committee met and agreed that this pay offer falls short. The Committee have therefore decided to reject this offer on behalf of the members.

Preparations are being made for the next steps and you will be hearing more soon.

In the meantime, please be on the lookout for ballot papers asking you to vote on possible industrial action. Then please ensure you vote and return your ballot in good time. Check for further [updates by clicking here](#) or on the image above.

The 2026/27 pay claim in brief:

The latest pay claim for local government and school staff was submitted on Monday 1st December 2025. The employers consulted on our claim during December to January.

Our claim includes (based on a one-year settlement):

- An increase of at least £3,000 or 10% (whichever is greater) on every pay point
- A minimum pay rate of £15 an hour for all staff
- 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

Mileage Rates: CAMPAIGN WIN AND SURVEY

Thanks to UNISON's campaigning, the Treasury has announced a review of HMRC mileage rates (AMAP). This should put thousands back in the pockets of frontline public service workers who use their cars to do their jobs.

The review will be undertaken over the next few months, with any changes announced at the Budget. We will be engaging closely to ensure that our members' experiences are reflected in the work – especially as Ministers described this as a “workers first” review.

We've therefore put together a survey so that members can contribute to the review directly – comments and the issues raised will be compiled into a report and handed directly into the Treasury. Please share the survey (and good news about the campaign!) with your colleagues and encourage them to take part. Click on the links below for more information.

Survey deadline is 21 May.

- [UNISON news article](#)
- [Government announcement](#)
- [Coverage of the announcement](#)
- [NEC report including mileage rates](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) or on the image below to open the survey.



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