

Update Local Government National Pay Bargaining for 2012/13 JSCC March 2012

What has happened

- No pay offers in 2010, 2011 or 2012
- No pay offers 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 Chief Officers

On 23rd February the Employers announced the third year of a pay freeze in Local government.

“You will be aware that this will be the third consecutive year that the local government workforce has not received a pay offer. This is unprecedented in the public sector. With this in mind, the National Employers have informed the unions that they would wish to avoid a situation of not being able to make a pay offer for a fourth year in 2013/14 and have therefore invited the unions to commence discussions immediately on a range of related issues covering pay, terms & conditions and reform of the national negotiating machinery with a view to reaching agreement for implementation on 1 April 2013”

The Trade Union Side subsequently made a formal request that the matter be referred to arbitration.

The employers made this response on 28th February

“I have now had the opportunity to consult the Employers’ Side and am writing to confirm that they cannot accede to your request. Arbitration can take place only where both parties are prepared to commit themselves to accepting that the outcome is binding. The National Employers are not able to give such an assurance as it would be irresponsible to leave councils exposed to potential expenditure that they have told us they could not afford. It would be equally unfair to raise the expectations of the workforce that there might be a pay award for 2012 when that is not the case.

Heather Wakefield Head of Local Government at Unison said she was “absolutely disgusted by the decision she went on to say that the pay freeze would force more council staff to exit the LGPS and stymie the efforts of Unions and the LGA to boost LGPS membership.