

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
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NATIONAL PAY BARGAINING UPDATE

The following letter was sent from Heather Wakefield, UNISON National Secretary on 22nd May 2013 to Local UNISON branch officials. It confirms the Employers final pay offer of 1%. The letter is a request for local officials to carry out an informal and unofficial ballot to see what number of UNISON members consider the pay offer should be accepted.

A message from Heather Wakefield, UNISON national secretary 22 May 2013

Make sure that your members have their say over local government pay

I am writing to you as a UNISON rep with members on local government pay and conditions to ask you to help make sure that as many eligible members as possible have their say over the current local government (NJC) pay offer for 2013-14.

As you know, UNISON is currently consulting members over the offer. Your UNISON branch will be contacting all eligible members between now and 7 June to see whether they accept or reject it.

After a three-year pay freeze and rejection by UNISON of their first offer, the employers have come back to us with a final offer of 1% on all pay points and removal of the bottom pay point - scale point 4 - from 1 October 2013. That means anyone on the bottom pay point will have a 2.4% pay increase from 1 October.

Government cuts are biting hard. Pay might not seem as important to your members as keeping their jobs or fighting cuts to pay and conditions at the moment. But it is very important that we have the views of as many as possible on the offer so that UNISON's NJC committee is clear on the next steps.

While the committee feels that the pay offer falls far short of what members need and deserve, it has decided to put the offer to members as "the best achievable by negotiation" and not reject it.

We know that the employers will not hold further talks with us or improve the offer unless a majority of our members are prepared to take all-out strike action over a sustained period.

We need to know what as many eligible members as possible think.

I would be very grateful if you could make sure that members in your workplace and branch have their say over local government pay, using the consultation materials that have been sent to branches.

If you want to know more about UNISON's local government pay campaign, please go to our [UNISON In local government Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/UnisonInLocalGovernment) (facebook.com/UnisonInLocalGovernment) or the [local government section of the UNISON web site](http://www.unison.org.uk/localgov/paycampaign) (www.unison.org.uk/localgov/paycampaign).

We will be increasing the pressure on the employers over the coming year to make sure that next year's offer is a much better one and building a strong campaign among members to end low pay in local government.

Thanks for your help.

With best wishes,

Heather Wakefield

National secretary for local government, police and justice.