

2008



NJC PAY CLAIM

This outlines UNISON'S proposed options for the local government pay claim for 2008/9.

2% IS NOT ENOUGH

It is clear that a serious campaign is needed both at national and branch level in the light of the government's position (set out in the comprehensive spending review) for a limit on public sector pay increases consistent with a 2% target for the next three years.

UNISON, GMB and TGWU-UNITE has submitted a claim to the Local Government Employers for the following for 2008-9:

An increase on all pay points of 6% or 50 pence an hour whichever is the greater.

This would make the bottom rate in local government £6.50 pence – a step towards the £6.75 pence which poverty experts say is the minimum needed to provide our lowest paid members with a living wage. We are also reminding the Local Government Employers that none of our claims for improved terms and conditions in recent years have been addressed. We will be submitting a separate proposal for improvements to them.

“CATCH UP AND MATCH UP”

We are calling our claim a “catch up and match up” claim. This is because our members pay has fallen below inflation since 2004, so we need to “catch up” with cost of living increases. We also need to “match up” to pay and conditions elsewhere in the public and private sectors. NJC pay is lower than

any other group of public sector workers – except those in 6th Form Colleges. We believe our members deserve to “match up” to those other public sector workers

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Acceptance of the 2007 pay award was linked to a review of the Green Book with “nothing ruled in and nothing ruled out”. Because of this it was agreed to decouple claims for improved terms and conditions from this year's pay claim on the basis they should be negotiated as part of the 2008 review of the Green Book.

