BY EMAIL, ON BEHALF OF WENDY NICHOLS, UNISON NORTH YORKSHIRE LG BRANCH

Dear Councillor,

I am contacting you on behalf of our members who work for your council to explain why they deserve a decent pay rise this year and to ask that you support our campaign.

I know that you will have been working hard on behalf of your community during this unprecedented Covid emergency, and you will have seen first-hand the fantastic work being done by local government workers.

As you know, at the height of the pandemic the Government announced a public sector pay freeze – in real terms, this is a pay cut. The Government argues that public sector pay has been rising faster than private sector pay. However, the Government is relying on a very short period of time to evidence this claim. The reality is that since 2010 public sector pay has fallen by 18% in real terms compared to 2009. For local government workers the situation is even worse; a 25% cut in real terms since 2010. Pay in the private sector is now recovering faster than in the public sector.

That is why UNISON, along with the other trade unions in local government, have submitted a pay claim for 10%.

We know that 10% sounds high, but this not a pie-in-the-sky pay claim. We have backed it up with evidence, and it is submitted in the context of a real-terms pay cut of up to 25% since 2010. A significant pay award this year will go some way to redress the balance, and will send a strong message to local government workers that they are valued and that employers and Government are grateful to them for being on the frontline of the Covid response.

Download our detailed, evidence-based pay claim for 2021/22:

https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2021/03/NJC-Pay-Claim-2021-FINAL.pdf

If you would like to discuss our claim please do not hesitate to contact me. I hope that you will be able to support our members; your council's staff.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Nichols
Branch Secretary