



REGIONAL CONVENOR & REGIONAL SECRETARY NEWSLETTER

23 April 2024



WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEADERSHIP – INAUGURAL COURSE

The inaugural course was launched on Friday 12 April in Leeds and it is great to report that it attracted a lot of interest from women in the region. Twenty women will be in the first cohort and in future editions of this newsletter we will get the women to give feedback to branches on how they are finding the course. There is a great cross section of women from various branches and service groups, but the one thing they all have in common is their desire to develop.



INDUSTRIAL ACTION

At the time of producing this newsletter both Leeds University and Leeds Trinity University have live mandates to take industrial action but as, yet no dates have been set. Once they have been set, they will be shared with branches so that support can be offered.

DOCAS SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

As previously reported work is underway to ensure that the region can meet the deadline of 9 May.

The government has introduced the above-named regulations (also known as the “check-off” regulations) which require arrangements between [name of employer] and UNISON to ensure that ‘check off’ processes are in place by 9 May 2024, when the regulations come into force.

The regulations do not seek to remove DOCAS/check off arrangements but aim to ensure that any additional administrative costs of providing this service by employers are covered by the union. To date we only have 12 outstanding employers in the region where we need to get an agreement in place. Your RO may contact you if they need further assistance with a specific employer.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY

Building your pay campaign – stand together for better pay (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

There are lots of resources available for your branch to use as part of your pay campaign. We are asking all branches to spread the word about the 2024/25 pay claim for council and school workers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



Visit UNISON's pay [campaign hub](#) where you'll find:

A wide range of [digital graphics](#). This includes graphics for your social media accounts, email headers, and to use as backgrounds for online meetings.

In the [UNISON shop](#) you'll find a full set of pay campaign leaflets and posters. There are schools and fire and rescue specific leaflets and posters too.

In the resources section on the pay campaign homepage you'll find a new [Powerpoint presentation](#). Please use this for meetings with your members to explain the claim to them. The presentation can be used in for in-person or online meetings.

We need to build the political case for better pay. Ask your councillors to debate and agree [this motion](#) at their council meetings. By doing so we are building support for a decent and fair pay rise for school and council workers and calling on the Westminster government to provide the funding needed for pay.

Remember to:

Ask members to update their details on [myunison](#) to ensure that they have their say on pay.

Ask non-members to [join unison](#) today so that they can join our campaign too. use the hashtag [#BetterPay2024](#) on all of your social media postings when sharing your campaign photos and stories.

NHS PAY

We have a consultation running for directly-employed NHS staff in England. More detail on UNISON's pay position and the reasons for the consultation is available at the member-facing webpage www.unison.org.uk/nhspay.

Member emails went out in tranches, on 3, 4 and 5 April. The consultation will run through at least April and May.



Just a few messaging things for us to keep in mind when promoting the consultation:

- Please only call this a consultation, never a ballot, to avoid confusion.
- Please try your best to avoid using the word 'vote' or 'voting' and stick to 'take part' and 'have your say' type messaging as this is a test of members' strength of feeling to inform lay decision making, not a democratic vote. There is no offer to vote on.
- The primary route for people to take part is through their email as they'll already be verified with their unique link. There is a participation link on www.unison.org.uk/nhspay but it's much better to say 'check your email' in any communications.
- The last date for non-members to join UNISON and have a say is 21 May.
- This is for directly employed NHS staff in England only.



DONCASTER RACES

In January at the Regional Committee's AGM it was overwhelmingly agreed that the region should continue to once again sponsor this event which will be held on Saturday 3 August 2024.

Ticket offers are:

2 Grandstand tickets for £15

2 County tickets for £32

(No booking fee)

Remember to add the promotional code UNISON2024MEMBER to the web page when booking - [Click here to book](#)

Gamble responsibly.

For more info visit www.gambleaware.com or telephone 0808 8020 133 or the Northern Gambling Service which is an NHS funded and provided service <https://www.leedsandyorkpft.nhs.uk/our-services/northern-gambling-service/>

