

As Welfare officer for LAS branch I am finding that more members are approaching me asking for assistance as they find it increasingly difficult to manage on their pay. Utility bills have increased, and petrol and food is becoming more expensive. Staff are working extra hours to boost their pay but extra hours equals extra fuel, extra child care and an unhealthy work/life balance. There is only so much extra work you can do, and so much you can cut back on, so its no wonder that staff are feeling demoralised. Despite this, we still do our best for our patients and are proud of the job that we do. I will be voting YES and encouraging my members to do the same.



Christine Tanner – Resource Co-Ordinator

Bryn Webster, Chair of UNISON's National Ambulance Occupational Group, gives his thoughts on the pay award

We're worth more than the kick in the teeth Hunt has dished out. Four years of frozen pay – with no commitment to a catch-up anytime soon – is unfair.

This is why my colleagues and I working in emergency services support the campaign for Fair Pay for NHS staff. Vote Yes!

What we are asking for:

If we get a YES vote, we will be fighting:

- for immediate payment of the PRB-recommended 1% on all hourly rates and the Living Wage of £7.65 per hour minimum
- to break the planned pay freeze for 2015-16
- for a commitment to cost of living pay increases for the future

What you need to know

The ballot opened on **28 August 2014** and will close at 10am on **18 September 2014**. Members will vote on strike action and action short of strike. A yes vote from members will mean starting our programme of action with a four hour strike followed by a short period of action short of strike (e.g. taking your proper breaks or working your contracted hours) in mid October.

Members have been sent a ballot paper with questions asking whether they are prepared to take strike action and/or action short of strike action. We are urging members to **vote YES for both** strike action and action short of strike. However, we are also urging all members, whatever your views, to **use YOUR vote** to ensure we have a high ballot turn out.

UNISON has produced a set of Frequently Answered Questions

<https://www.unison.org.uk/upload/sharepoint/Toweb/NHS%20Pay%20Ballot%20FAQs.pdf>

UNISON news stories <http://www.unison.org.uk/at-work/health-care/key-issues/nhs-pay/news/>

How much have you lost? Find out now

If you're not sure how you have been affected by the pay freeze in the last four years, and what is still to come, then **visit our pay calculator**, but be prepared for a shock!

<http://paycalculator.unison.org.uk/>