

Contact: Heather Wakefield 020 7551 1329

To: Local Authority Chief Executives

13 November 2008

Dear Chief Executive

NJC Pay Award 2009-2010

Date received	17/11/2008
Action	OKIST

The three NJC unions – UNISON, GMB and UNITE – are writing to you to ask you to focus your Council's attention on the NJC pay award for 2009-2010. We will shortly be lodging the claim on behalf of our members and would like to ensure that we can reach agreement this year without the need for industrial action or the sort of damaging dispute that has resulted from this year's below-inflation offer. You will know that we are seeking a peaceful resolution to the 2008 pay dispute by reference to arbitration.

As the three unions we have agreed that the claim for 2009-10 should be for a substantial increase, at least at the level of real price inflation, with additional increases for the lower paid. We believe that this claim is fair and is designed to enable our members to maintain their current standard of living and to rectify low pay at the bottom of the scale. **We are asking you to ensure that your council is able to meet that claim.**

As you know, the offer/award to our members this year did not come close to compensating them for cost of living increases and their pay has lost value. They are already the worst paid group within the public sector, with pay on the lowest pay point falling well behind that in the NHS, further education, higher education and support staff in police and probation. Equivalent jobs higher up the scale such as social workers and nursery nurses are also relatively poorly paid.

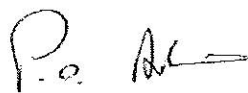
As unions we support the need for more joined-up public services which will improve to meet the real needs of service users. However, our members increasingly find themselves working alongside colleagues from other sectors on better pay and conditions. Annual leave and parental rights also trail behind in local government.

Local government needs to tell its workforce – one that has delivered consistent improvement over the last ten years – that it is valued and recognised for the great job it does. This year has been a damaging one for them and the image of local government. **We trust that you will budget for an increase this year that at least keeps pace with increases in the cost of living and take action to deal with poverty pay for the lowest paid.**

With best wishes,



Heather Wakefield
UNISON



Pete Allenson
UNITE



Brian Strutton
GMB