



NHS DISPUTE ESCALATES AS UNISON ANNOUNCES 12 AND 24 HOUR STRIKES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

UNISON members working in the NHS in England will walkout for 12 hours on Thursday 29th January.

They will then work to rule between Friday 30 and Tuesday 24 February which means they will be working their contracted hours and will take their breaks and not do unpaid overtime. This will be followed a 24-hour strike on Wednesday 24 February.

UNISON members along with workers from 11 other Trade Unions have already taken two four-hour stoppages in October and November. This third round of action is in protest at the Government's decision to reject the 1% pay rise for NHS staff as recommended by the independent Pay Review Body in 2014 and the fact most will be denied a pay increase in 2015/16.

Christina McAnea UNISON Head of Health said:

"We warned months ago that this dispute is here to stay unless the Government and NHS employers are prepared to negotiate with us.

"Today (Friday 19th December) is likely to be the busiest day in the NHS with ambulance and A&E staff put under huge pressure to deal with the fallout from the many Christmas parties taking place across the country.

"We have decided not to take strike action over the Christmas period as services are already at breaking point at this time. Our members are demonstrating their concern for patient safety. I only wish the employers and Government would do the same. "Instead they are being completely irresponsible by refusing to have meaningful negotiations on how we resolve this dispute. And they are putting patients' lives at risk.

"Our members' pay has been frozen or held down for the past five years and there is no end in sight. On average, they have lost around 10% in the value of their pay over the life of this parliament. "We now have no option but to escalate and plan for longer strikes. The anger among health workers has reached levels where they are now ready to walk out for 24 hours. NHS staff have been singled out by this coalition government for the worst treatment across the public sector. "Other groups will get their recommended pay increases – for MPs this is 11%. In the NHS, many workers are facing serious financial hardship especially at this time of year. It is a national disgrace that 77,000 NHS staff still don't receive the Living Wage and that many have to rely on food banks. The governments in Wales and Scotland have committed to paying this. "All we are asking is for fair and decent pay for NHS workers. "

NEW YEAR

NEW STRIKE DAYS



Strike:

12 hours

Thursday 29 January



**Don't work for free
and take your breaks:**

Friday 30 January –

Thursday 24 February



Strike:

24 hours from midnight

Wednesday 25 February

NHS PAY

