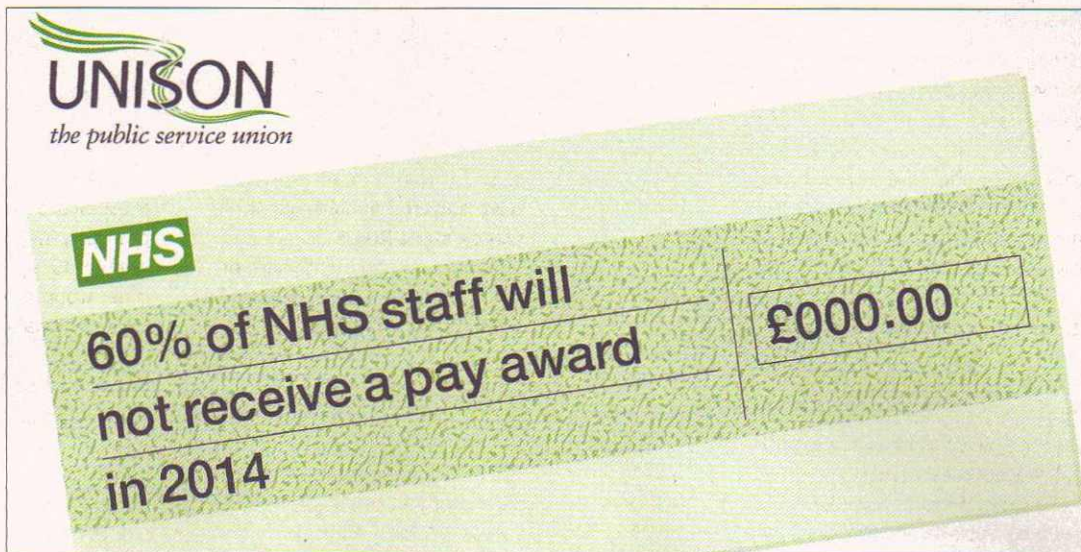


NHS pay

Join the protest on 5 June



UNISON members across the country will be taking part in a day of protest in the campaign for decent pay for all NHS staff

NHS staff will increase the pressure in their struggle for decent pay next month, with a day of protest across the UK to highlight the issues.

The country-wide protest on 5 June will express their anger about the government's divisive pay award and raise awareness of how holding down health service pay affects staff morale and patient care.

UNISON is calling on its NHS branch activists to play their part in the protest, alongside other staff side union members, patients' groups and campaigning organisations.

The day will feature rallies and lunchtime protests at workplaces throughout the country, as well as leafleting, various other events and full use of social media.

The protest is just one act in a prolonged campaign for better NHS pay and, by extension, a properly motivated health service workforce.

May has already seen health branches organising recruitment events and stalls in workplaces,

promoting the message that hardworking NHS staff deserve fair pay.

And later this year, NHS members will be balloted over industrial action in direct response to the government's decision to give a 1% non-consolidated increase only to those NHS staff at the top of their incremental scale.

This decision leaves 60% of NHS staff without any increase in 2014 – including 70% of nurses.

"The public deserves a quality NHS with staff who are well motivated and properly rewarded for the vital work they do," says

UNISON head of health Christina McAnea.

"This divisive pay award will do nothing to provide such motivation.

"A demoralised and demotivated workforce is no good for patients."

Pay restraint has had a massive impact in the NHS, where healthcare workers have seen real-term salary levels fall by between 8-12% since 2010.

It is lowest-paid staff who have taken the greatest hit from the double whammy of the pay freeze

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UNISON
the public service union

35,000

APPROXIMATELY 35,000
NHS STAFF IN THE UK
ARE NOT PAID
THE LIVING WAGE

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and ever-rising living costs.

In the last three years, NHS staff have been asked to do more and more, for less and less.

The worrying reality for today's NHS staff is that:

- 20,000 of them now earn less than the living wage;
- in 2012/13 Treasury cuts clawed back £2.1bn from the NHS in England;
- more and more health staff are turning to food banks to feed their families;
- the pay announcement will not come close to meeting cost of living increases;
- most NHS staff are facing a continuing pay freeze until at least 2016.

"UNISON is clear that if this government continues its attack on hard-working and dedicated NHS staff, the consequences will be serious," added Ms McAnea.

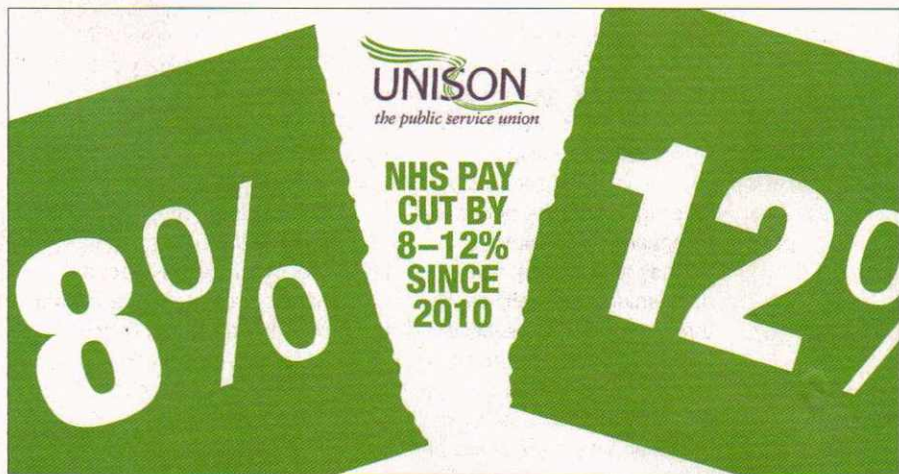
"The government should be investing in NHS staff, not forcing them out of the NHS to find better-paid work elsewhere."

The aim of the day of protest is to raise awareness of the issues – not just among UNISON members, but also among non-members in the workplace and the public.

Branches should liaise with other unions in the workplace to organise joint activity.

Things you can do include:

- hold a lunchtime rally/protest;
- hold a campaign stall in your workplace;
- organise an open meeting to explore the impact of poor NHS pay on staff and patients – invite the local community and MPs;
- ask union members and the public to sign the online petition in support of NHS staff – epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/64222;



- get members to join our Worth It pay campaign at unison.org.uk/worth-it;
- spread the word through social media – get members of your branch to tweet Jeremy Hunt about fair pay using the hash tag #NHSpay;
- think about having workplace meetings or a stall in your community to speak to health

workers and the public about NHS pay.

Branches should make sure they tell their regions of any events they plan for the day, as well as emailing the details to UNISON Centre at health@unison.co.uk.

To find out about events taking place in your area, visit unison.org.uk/nhs-pay.

