



WMAS Newsletter

Issue 1 SG/CM

March 2013

Welcome to the first Unison WMAS Newsletter.

Over the past few months the Union has become aware of the lack of communication between the senior reps and their members. To try and rectify this our aim is to put out a newsletter to keep members informed and up to date as to what is going on and what their reps are doing on their behalf.

Help and Advice

To begin with we have set up two dedicated email addresses.

The first WMASUnisonQandA@yahoo.co.uk is for sensible questions / queries / problems that you need answering.

The second WMASUnisonHelp@yahoo.co.uk is for UNISON members that need URGENT advice or help due to immediate work related incidents. Please do not abuse this email.

And Finally

If there is anything that you think would be useful / informative or would like added to this Newsletter feel free to send suggestions to the Q&A email address mentioned above.

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CHANGES TO AGENDA FOR CHANGE SICK PAY **WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU!**

Over the past few weeks there have been various rumours and speculation regarding changes to the T&C's of Agenda for Change and what this would mean to WMAS staff. Many of these rumours claimed that Unison had accepted this for Ambulance Staff.

We can confirm that Health Service employer representatives and ALL unions have been discussing changes to the national NHS pay framework, Agenda for Change (AFC), for eighteen months. This is being done to protect the AFC T&C nationally and to ensure that trusts do not break away from it. The changes were voted on by the majority of unions as they wish to protect AFC T&C for their members. This in turn would prevent trusts moving away from AFC and implementing local terms and conditions which would be detrimental to all staff.

What is significant in what was voted for was a change to Section 14 of the Agenda for Change.

Section 14 relates to all staff on Agenda for Change terms and condition, **with the exception of ambulance staff employed by ambulance trusts.** For ambulance staff employed by ambulance trusts, unsocial hours payments and sickness paid arrangements are covered in Annex E of the Agenda for Change handbook. There has been **NO** change to this!

Annex E section 3 states :

'The pay enhancement will be based on the average number of hours worked outside these times during the standard working week, and will be paid as a fixed percentage addition to basic pay in each pay period. The enhancement will be pensionable and count for sick pay, but will not be consolidated for purposes of overtime or any other payment'

There is no alteration to Annex E so any ambulance staff employed by WMAS should still receive the regular fixed percentage unsocial payment if on sick leave.

SG/CM.