



UNISON members to be balloted on industrial action over pensions

Following the TUC Conference, Dave Prentis has announced that UNISON members will be balloted for industrial action over the threat to pensions.



If you're eligible for the NHS pension scheme local government pension scheme, or civil service pension scheme then in the next month you'll receive a ballot paper and UNISON are urging you to **VOTE YES!**

You pay into your pension throughout your career so that you can have security and dignity in retirement. However, your pension is under threat. In brief, ministers want you to pay more if you earn over £15,000 a year, to work much longer and at the end of your working life, to receive a worse pension. Relevant government ministers, without agreement, have already changed for the worse the way in which those receiving a public sector pension get an increase each year to take account of inflation.

They have stopped using the Retail Price Index which has been used for decades and, from this year, pensions will only increase in line with the Consumer Price Index - a much worse index. This change alone has reduced the overall value of the pensions by over 10%.

Now, they want to increase your pension contributions by an average of over 50% if you earn above £15,000. It's the equivalent on average of a 3% pay cut.

Not a penny of this major increase in your contributions will go towards improving your pension schemes. Instead it will go to the Treasury. This is an additional unfair tax on public sector workers and is deliberately disguised as money for the pension schemes, which they falsely claim to be unaffordable. The truth is public sector pension funds are cash rich and affordable. On top of this, they want you to work longer before you can take your pension in full. Even if you have a protected pensionable retirement age of 65, this will be torn up.

You will be expected to work until 66, then to 67 and 68 as the state retirement age increases. They then want us to agree to new pension schemes, but we have no idea what the value of any new scheme would be or the transitional arrangements to it. UNISON, working together with other TUC trade unions, has opposed this attack on our pensions.

UNISON has negotiated with ministers in good faith. But we also know that public sector workers are already enduring pay freezes, the threat of privatisation, reorganisations and cuts in services. It's not fair to target you any further.

You deserve the pension you are already entitled to. We need your support and your help to send this message. When you receive your ballot paper UNISON urges you to vote 'yes'. Talk to your colleagues and get them to join UNISON to strengthen our voice. Talk to your local branch and your local MP and for more information look at our website: unison.org.uk/protectourpensions

Vote 'yes' and together we can send a powerful message to protect our pensions.

