

# TOGETHER WE RISE IN UNISON

TUC MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT – WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

11.00AM TO 3.00PM FOLLOWED BY RALLY AT 6.00PM

All UNISON members working in public services will know that over the past 10 or more years our pay has not been keeping up with inflation and is having a cumulative negative effect on our standard of living.

The recent rise in energy prices is being felt across the whole economy resulting in us having to pay far more for everyday items. Thousands of members are seeing that their pay simply does not cover the costs of living.

The Government appears out of touch and has no understanding of the struggles ordinary families are facing. But make no mistake the Cost-of-living crisis is not due to our members being unable to budget the pittance they have are given, it is down to the political choices of this inept Government.

Over the past two years we have all witnessed the millions of pounds squandered in the dodgy Covid deal with their mates. Wasting money that could have been used to fund a decent pay rise for public sector workers. Many of whom put lives on the line to deliver the services required.

So, **NO** we don't need to practice pay restraint we need to get our members the pay they deserve. Our members don't go to work for the fun of it, or to hear the public stand clapping on the doorstep they go to work to earn a fair day's pay, one that will allow them to live not just to exist.

We have spent too long debating this issue and talking amongst ourselves now is the time for action.

**Join the TUC Lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. We need to step up and speak out – LOBBY YOUR MP.**

# IF OUR PAY DOESN'T RISE WE WILL

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Get people from your Branch to lobby their MP on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. Let us know how many are going and we will advise those who are further!

OR Write to your MP and ask to meet them locally in their local surgery. Ideally get a group of people and go together.

## LOBBYING YOUR MP

As a constituent, you can ask to speak to your Member of Parliament. We can advise you further on this process if you tell us you want to do this. To do this you need to write to your MP and ask to meet them.

The best way to contact your MP about a meeting is to write to them at the House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA. Find your local MP using the following link:

<https://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/contact-your-mp/>

## LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

You can ask to meet them locally in their local surgery. Ideally talk to other representatives and go together. **YET BEST OF ALL WOULD BE IF YOU CAN GO TO WESTMINSTER ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2022.** If you can, seek holiday from work if possible.

## WHAT WILL ATTENDING THE LOBBY INVOLVE?

It is expected that the lobbying will be throughout the day in Parliament. Make an appointment with your MP at a time they can do but expect to arrive from 11.00am to 3.00pm. There will be a rally which will begin at 6pm with speakers at Westminster Central Hall and will aim to show the full diversity of our trade union movement.

The widest regional representation we can achieve, particularly for UNISON members the more effective the lobby will be.

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If you contact Gillian Breeze at this office [g.breeze@unison.co.uk](mailto:g.breeze@unison.co.uk) and let us know you are going, we will give you full details of North West activity on the day.

## Lobbying Effectively!

Remember, MPs are usually only prepared to meet members who are their own constituents. They will not be expecting trade union officers, so this lobby needs to be activists and ordinary members. They will be interested in how the cost of living crisis and low pay affects you and your colleagues as constituents, rather than as union members. It is where you live that will determine which MP you see.

## **GUIDANCE ON HOW TO STRUCTURE A LETTER TO YOUR MP CAN BE GIVEN**

If you are attending the Lobby at Parliament, you will need to write to your MP to tell them you will be there. The union can advise on the day, but it is you the MP may make themselves available for, not the union.

Remember:

**The best way to contact your MP about a meeting is to write to them at the House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA. You will need to state your reason for a meeting. The letter places on record your request to meet and it also serves as evidence if that request is denied.**

- **Tell them who you are and what you do. Why this important work matters to local people?**
- **Tell them how difficult life is just now.**
- **Ask them to meet you to discuss your concerns and to explain what they can do to tackle this appalling situation.**

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# TOGETHER WE RISE IN UNISON

## TOGETHER WE RISE FOR FAIR PAY

UNISON believe we tackle the cost of living crisis by fair wage increases. Anything less than inflation is a pay cut. We need a long-term strategy to restore living standards.

We need government to recognise that public services are essential for a prosperous, healthy and educated society and they need to be properly and fairly funded. A failure to do that means we are being asked to provide these services on the cheap, and as people leave for better pay elsewhere, or simply don't come into public service in the first place, whilst those left behind have to work harder and harder yet are rewarded with real pay cuts.

UNISON have produced a Policy Report – “Together We Rise For Fair Pay” on the Cost of Living and how to solve it. See it for yourself and take forward key messages.

<https://www.unison.org.uk/unison-report-on-cost-of-living-crisis/>

<https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2022/08/Together-we-rise-for-fair-pay-executive-summary.pdf>

As the great Nelson Mandela said:

*Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.*

Our actions now will determine how many members we can help.

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