

LG/31/2011

Our ref:

Your ref:

Heather Wakefield 0207 551 1329

h.wakefield@unison.co.uk

Lucille Thirlby 0207 551 1315

l.thirlby@unison.co.uk



1 Mabledon Place
London WC1H 9AJ

Tel: 0845 355 0845

Fax: 0207 551 1101

Text tel: 0800 0 967 968

www.unison.org.uk

To: Secretaries of Local Government Branches in England,
Wales and Northern Ireland
(Scotland – for information only)
Regional Heads of Local Government
Registered Sectional/Professional Bodies – for information

8 April 2011

NJC Pay 2011-2012

This circular updates branches on Eric Pickles' response on NJC pay.

We have now received a response from Eric Pickles, who like Baroness Eaton, has said that, because he has no formal role in NJC negotiations, 'there would seem little to be gained from us meeting as you suggest'. A copy of the full letter is attached.

The NJC Executive Trade Union Side will be meeting on 12 April 2011 to consider the next steps.

In the meantime, please don't forget to let us know what your council has budgeted for pay in the year 2011-2012. It is becoming clear that some councils have budgeted to meet our claim – or similar increase. A small number have also paid it.

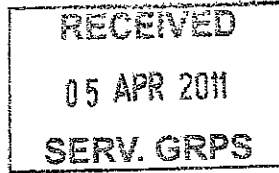
It is important to keep highlighting how rising inflation and fuel prices are impacting on our members, especially with the prospect of the 3% increase in pension contributions announced by the Government. With local elections in many councils in May, we can put pressure on councillors and MP's to do the right thing by our members. **Please make sure that your branch has written to all your councillors and MP's.**

With very best wishes,

Heather Wakefield
National Secretary
Local Government Service Group



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local
Government

Department for Communities and Local
Government

Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: 0303 444 3450

Fax: 0303 444 3289

E-Mail: eric.pickles@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.communities.gov.uk

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31 MAR 2011

Dear Joint Secretaries

Thank you for your letter of 11 March in which you ask for a meeting to discuss the pay arrangements for 2011/12 for local government services.

While the Government's overall policy on public sector pay sets the context in which decisions about local government pay are made, those decisions remain a matter for negotiation between local government employers and trade unions. Government is not party to those negotiations.

I understand that, for 2011/12, the Local Government Employers have concluded, after consultation with councils, that a pay award would not be affordable and that the protection of services and jobs should take greater priority.

Given that I have no role in negotiations about pay arrangements in local government, there would seem to be little to be gained from us meeting as you suggest. I know, however, that you will continue to work constructively with my officials on other issues where there is a Departmental interest, including reform of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Yours
Eric Pickles

THE RT HON ERIC PICKLES MP