



BRANCH SECRETARIES BRIEFING FOR SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BRANCHES

Call for Action

Branches and members will have by now received the results of the ballot over the SJC pay offer. As a result of the 'yes' vote, the Industrial Action Committee has given the 'go ahead' for all-out strike action on **20 August 2008**. **A Call for Action letter will be direct mailed to every member on or about 8 August encouraging them to take action.** Notice of Action letters to the employers will be sent out also on the 8th August.

Taking strike action is never an easy decision for members of this union. We prefer to do what we do best – provide quality services for the public. But having won a 'yes' vote for action, it is now up to the union at all levels to deliver on that action and make the employers come back to the negotiating table.

And that means all of us. We need stewards and reps who are in daily contact with members to get the maximum possible turnout. Members who are already facing steep price rises in mortgage, food, gas and electricity might wonder whether losing pay in a strike is worth it. We have to convince them that it's the strength of turn-out which will make the strike successful.

A large turn-out will send a clear message to the employers that they must improve their offer and show members the respect they deserve.

UNISON will be putting all its resources into making sure that our members on SJC pay and conditions make this action a huge success and get the employers back to the negotiating table. Please support your union – together we can make a difference.

Special Meeting for Branch Secretaries

Following the very successful ballot for industrial action there will be a one day strike on **Wednesday 20 August**. More information will be provided but

e mail; sjcpayballot08@unison.co.uk

for now you should know that the Local Government Committee have arranged a special delegate meeting for **Thursday 7 August**. Each branch should be represented by the Branch Secretary or other senior branch officer.

A more detailed agenda will be provided but the meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss:

- Maximising turn out on 20 August
- Identifying groups of members for selective action
- Relationships with the other trade unions
- Support from the region (all organising staff have been invited to attend)

The meeting will take place in the **Glasgow City Branch Office on Albion Street**. It will start at **11.00am and conclude by 3.00pm**. Please confirm your attendance with Jean Fraser, j.fraser@unison.co.uk as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for a buffet lunch.

Campaign Materials

The following leaflets will be distributed directly to branches from **9 August**.

Leaflet	Distribution No	Stock Number
General Members Leaflet	1 per 10 members	0546
General Public Leaflet (on why we are on strike)	1 per 10 members	0545
Recruitment Leaflet	1 per 20 members	0544
A4 Poster (for display on notice boards etc)	1 per 20 members	0543

Branches that require additional quantities of leaflets can order them directly from the Communications Department quoting the appropriate stock number or download them from the UNISON Scotland Website at unison-scotland.org.uk

The following materials will also be distributed directly to branches from London

Material	Distribution No	Stock Number
Low Pay Message Placard	50 per branch	0549
Paddles	30 per branch	0548
Lapel Stickers	100 sheets, 16 per sheet	2703

Branches should also ensure that they have adequate stocks of the standard

stock items- picket placards, blank placards and steward's armbands.

Material	Stock number
Steward's Armbands	0702
Blank Placard for Branch use	0713
Official Picket Placard	0703

Branches wishing additional stocks should order them directly from the Communications Department quoting the appropriate stock number. All orders should be placed by **12 August** to guarantee delivery in time for the 20th.

Branch Guidance Materials

The following documents are attached to this briefing for branch use and information;

- Guide to Taking Strike Action
- Guidance for Branches on Exemptions and Life and Limb Cover
- Rebuttal Document – please NOTE this is for reference use by any Branch Press spokespeople and not for wide distribution
- Q&A
- Branch Strike Action Template

RALLIES/MARCHES

Dave Prentis, General Secretary will be with us during the Day of Action on the 20th August and will be visiting picket lines starting in Edinburgh early morning, West Lothian and through to Glasgow for a rally at lunchtime or early afternoon. Whilst it is not the intention to have a 'Scottish' rally for all branches albeit that branches are more than welcome to participate in the Glasgow event, but for branches to consider local events. UNISON Scotland would be happy to offer branches support and assistance in organising these.

CONTACTS

Questions and queries should be directed to the dedicated email address sjcpayballot08@unison.co.uk