

**Media release**

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**Embargo: For information and release**

**UNISON BALLOT LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS IN FIGHT FOR FAIR PAY**

UNISON, Scotland’s biggest trade union, is to ballot council workers for industrial action. If workers vote yes for industrial action – which could include strike action – council services will be affected from the October 2014. The ballot will run from 9 – 29 September 2014.

UNISON is calling for an extra £1 per hour for all council workers, for the consolidation of the living wage and for employers to open negotiations.

Xxxx, UNISON Xxxx branch secretary said, “Council workers had a paltry 1% pay increase imposed on them this year which is well below inflation. And over the past few years imposed pay freezes and below inflation pay rises mean that the value of council workers’ wages has fallen by 16%. UNISON has been left with little choice but to ballot members.’

Local Government has taken the brunt of the cuts. There have been heavy jobs losses and terms and conditions are being eroded. UNISON members are forced to do more for less

UNISON spokesperson said ‘UNISON members are angry about how they are being treated and are determined to fight for better public services and fair pay. We intend to send a message to our employers that they need to come to the negotiating table’

**ENDS**

**Further information for Editors**

1. UNISON is the biggest trade union in Scotland and it represents over 70,000 local government workers across Scotland.
2. Last year the Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) intimated to UNISON that their two year pay offer (1% 2013/14 and 1% 2014/15) would be imposed on UNISON members given the fact that the other two trade unions had accepted it.
3. This action by the COSLA is out with the agreed bargaining structures of the Scottish Joint Committee and seeks to marginalise UNISON for not agreeing to their offer.
4. UNISON lodged a pay claim for 2014/15, 1) £1 per hour for all staff; 2) Consolidation of the Living Wage; 3) Deletion of the spinal column points below the level of the Living Wage. However COSLA refused to enter into negotiations
5. There have been 39,600 job cuts across local government in Scotland.

**For more information contact:**

* Xxxx UNISON local branch secretary xxx