

# Tens of thousands of Asda workers to be balloted in pay dispute



## Retail staff are struggling while Asda's owners are buying private jets

GMB Union begins a ballot of tens of thousands of Asda workers today [4 November] in a dispute over pay.

Asda is once again the worst paying of the 'big four' supermarkets after the other retailers **recently gave staff increased pay rises to help with the cost of living crisis.**



But despite repeated calls from GMB, Asda bosses refuse to increase retail workers basic pay of £10.10 per hour in line with the other 'big four'

GMB is asking whether members are happy to accept what is essentially a zero per cent pay offer. The ballot closes on 4th December.

Struggling Asda workers are incensed the Issa Brothers – owners of the EG group which acquired Asda in a highly leveraged buyout in 2021 – **reportedly borrowed tens of millions of euros interest-free from their company to buy two private jets.** [2]

**Nadine Houghton, GMB National Officer, said:**

“Asda's retail workers are now seeing their hourly rate of pay slip to the bottom of the pile – again.

“Meanwhile the Issa brothers are loaning themselves tens of millions to buy private jets.

“Other companies see the need to protect staff from the cost-of-living crisis by offering increased pay rises and staff discounts.

“It's time Asda bosses took a leaf out of their book and invested in staff, instead of further debt leveraging Asda to expand their empire.”

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