

Sunak's public sector pay freeze set to cost Tories red wall seats



Public sector workers could overturn majorities in 80% of Conservatives' gains from Labour

Public sector workers could overturn majorities in 80% of Conservatives' gains from Labour

Public sector workers outnumber new MPs' majorities in 43 out of the 54 seats that the Conservatives won from Labour in December 2019, new analysis reveals.

Despite the loss of almost a million public sector jobs since 2010, on average public sector workers outstrip than the incumbent MP's majority by 3,400 in seats won by the Conservatives from Labour in the Midlands and the North.



The MP most at risk is Jo Gideon, whose majority of just 670 in Stoke-on-Trent Central is outweighed by 19,700 public sector employees in the constituency.

The figures were released by the GMB Union, which represents over 300,000 public sector workers, ahead of a reported announcement on a new public sector pay freeze in the Comprehensive Spending Review on Wednesday (25 November).

The vulnerability of a large number of Conservative seats will raise memories of the 2017 election, when the loss of Theresa May's majority **was widely attributed** to the public sector pay freezes and caps implemented since 2010.

Rehana Azam, GMB National Secretary, said:

"A new pay freeze would be an outrageous attack on some of the workers who sacrificed the most during the Covid pandemic.

"Public sector workers' wages have never recovered from a decade of pay austerity, which forced thousands of key workers to depend on debt and food banks.



Take action



“Eight months ago, Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak promised to put their ‘arms around every single worker’ – now they are coming for the wages of teaching assistants who earn under £14,000 a year, and are already finding it difficult to make ends meet.

“The politics of pay austerity has already been rejected by the electorate once before. Public sector workers are already underpaid and exhausted, and recruitment and retention problems will inevitably be made worse by a pay freeze.

“GMB will not rest in campaigning for pay justice for all public service workers, and if Conservative MPs insist on pushing this cruel and counterproductive measure through then it will not be forgotten at the next election.”

Press office

079859 1525698

press.office@gmb.org.uk

Member requiring help?

[Click to contact your local GMB Region](#)

info@gmb.org.uk

