

# A word from the Regional Secretary, Ruth Brady



It's been another tough year for us all. Whilst we have seen the vaccination and booster roll out at remarkable speed, it obviously feels all rather flat now with the spread of the Omicron virus. As a region we decided last week to close our offices for this week – and we'll be keeping an eye on how the situation develops over the next few weeks and into the new year. That

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Whilst we have seen the vaccination and booster roll out at remarkable speed, it obviously feels all rather flat now with the spread of the Omicron virus.



As a region we decided last week to close our offices for this week – and we'll be keeping an eye on how the situation develops over the next few weeks and into the new year.

That could mean lockdowns, firebreaks or just more working from home; but whatever the situation, have no doubts that whatever the situation, your union will stand by and support you.



Reflecting on this I wanted to take a moment to thank all our key workers on behalf of GMB, many of whom are our members have been the solid foundations of our fightback against covid.

Across the country up throughout the 20 months of the pandemic, they have cared for our sick and elderly, looked after children, made sure our retail shelves are replenished, packages are delivered, refuse disposed of, utility services supplied, and our vaccines administered at an astronomical level.

Your fearless dedication will not be forgotten, certainly by this union, and in 2022 we will fight even harder for a better deal at work for you and your colleagues.



There have been some great moments for GMB, our ground-breaking recognition deal with Uber, winning for members in Bristol Water, Panasonic, Goodfish and many more workplaces across Wales and South West England.

“ Our members at Bristol Water are FED UP

They are tired of years of pay erosions.

And now after risking their health in the pandemic, they've been given a pay freeze.

This isn't on [#BristolWaterFreeze](https://pic.twitter.com/if2RoE6JXq) [pic.twitter.com/if2RoE6JXq](https://pic.twitter.com/if2RoE6JXq)

– GMB Wales & S West (@GMBWSW) April 6, 2021

“ This morning @GMB\_union members are striking at @PanasonicUK after the company withdrew a measly 1% pay offer



AFTER a two year pay freeze

DESPITE A \$60bn turnover

Time to [#PayUpPanasonic](https://pic.twitter.com/HOsZiMXpE9) [pic.twitter.com/HOsZiMXpE9](https://pic.twitter.com/HOsZiMXpE9)

— GMB Wales & S West (@GMBWSW) November 15, 2021

There were other highlights like playing our part in an election win for Welsh Labour against the odds, and Dan Norris' election as Labour Mayor for the West of England.

Both victories had major contributions from GMB and we know that how thankful representatives were and how willing they are to play their role in furthering GMB's agenda across the country.

“ The unstoppable [#TeamGMB](https://pic.twitter.com/rdSHFHwEQA) out in St Mellons with [@vaughanething](https://pic.twitter.com/rdSHFHwEQA) [#LabourDoorstep](https://pic.twitter.com/rdSHFHwEQA) [pic.twitter.com/rdSHFHwEQA](https://pic.twitter.com/rdSHFHwEQA)

— GMB Wales & S West (@GMBWSW) May 6, 2021

Over the last few months we have balloted all of our members in the NHS, Local government and care on the Governments latest derisory pay deals.

It was an intensive process that took up a lot of resources, and I want members to know that whatever the outcome, we will fight for every penny they deserve.

Whether that's this years pay deal or next years, we will fight for every penny you are owed after a decade of pay freezes.

“ Day 43.

If staff haven't signed up today for worse terms and conditions by 12.00pm, they'll be shown the door

That can't be right. That's why our members are still standing strong [#StopTheBritishGasFire](https://pic.twitter.com/wL0v2uxlyK) [pic.twitter.com/wL0v2uxlyK](https://pic.twitter.com/wL0v2uxlyK)



Gary Smith our General Secretary has committed to retain contribution rates without any increase this year and determined to ensure this is replicated next year. Campaigning and Organising is his core priority, serving our members and fighting for what matters to them.

I'd also like to take a quick second to thank my old friend and colleague, Mike Payne who is retiring after 30 years with GMB. His work and commitment has made our union and our country a better place to live, and we will miss him dearly.

“ Great to be out knocking doors with Vaughan Gething in St Mellons tonight.  
[pic.twitter.com/mRmkzmkjFS](https://pic.twitter.com/mRmkzmkjFS)

— Mike Payne (@MikePayne110760) May 5, 2021

Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year and I'll see you In January.

Let's hope 2022 is a better year for everyone.

Ruth

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### Member requiring help?

Click to contact your local GMB Region

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