

1st August 2024

Naomi Cooke
Employers' Side Secretary
Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

Sent by Email.

Dear Naomi

Thank you for your letter of 11 June and the subsequent NJC Executive meeting held on 10 July 2024.

As was expressed in that meeting, and in previous correspondence, we are extremely disappointed to have received an offer which falls so far short of our pay claim.

On Monday this week the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves MP, announced that this new government accepts the public sector pay review bodies' recommendations in full and she has also published the civil service pay remit guidance. All employees working in these areas of public services are now going to receive, on average, higher percentage pay increases than that offered to local government and school support employees through the National Joint Council.

It is clear that this government has recognised that the public sector workers need an adequate pay rise and a pay rise that recognises that public sector pay has fallen, over many years, so far behind the cost of living. Local government workers need an adequate pay rise too. The problems of poverty, morale, recruitment and retention continue to affect local government staff and this urgently needs addressing. Many of the employees covered by PRBs will have their pay rises backdated to 1 April 2024 and we believe that, in light of these recent developments, it's only reasonable for those on the NJC pay spine to have their 1 April pay offer reviewed and increased.

On this basis, we are asking the National Employers for local government services to come back to the table and to open meaningful pay talks with the joint unions.

We look forward to hearing from you.


Yours sincerely,



Sharon Wilde GMB



Clare Keogh Unite



Ruth Levin
PP Mike Short UNISON