

your  
pay  
matters

UNISON  
the public service union

USE YOUR VOTE

USE YOUR VOTE

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Dear colleague

### Further education consultative ballot

UNISON is holding a full postal ballot on the Association of Colleges (AoC) final pay recommendation for 2008/09.

The ballot papers will be sent to the home addresses of all UNISON members employed in further education (FE) colleges in England.

The AoC is the national body that negotiates the pay recommendation on behalf of all FE colleges. This recommendation sets what should be the minimum pay increase awarded in all FE colleges.

Ballot papers will be despatched from **14 August and the ballot closes at 10am on Monday 8 September.**

Please find attached with this letter posters and leaflets to raise awareness of the final recommendation. These materials are being sent to branches and those FE college reps for whom we have details.

### If you are a branch officer

Please distribute the leaflets and posters to those FE colleges in your branch area that have been included in the pay ballot.

***Sixth form colleges are not included in this ballot, so do not distribute the ballot materials to sixth form colleges.***

If in doubt, check exactly which colleges in your branch have been included in the ballot. The full list of colleges being balloted can be found on: [www.unison.org.uk/education](http://www.unison.org.uk/education) (the list identifies each college by branch).

If you require additional posters or leaflets they can be downloaded from the UNISON website [www.unison.org.uk/education](http://www.unison.org.uk/education) and photocopied.

### If you are an FE college rep

As soon as possible, please:

- Distribute the leaflets to members and encourage them to vote.
- Display the posters prominently.
- Encourage non-members to join UNISON and take part in the ballot. If they ring UNISON on 0845 355 0845 before noon on Wednesday 3 September and join the union they are eligible to vote.

### What if my college doesn't usually follow the AoC pay recommendation?

If your FE college hasn't traditionally followed the AoC pay recommendation, or if they have reached a local pay agreement, UNISON's position is clear: regardless of local circumstances it is vital that all UNISON members in colleges flagged for inclusion in the ballot should cast their vote. This is a ballot on a national pay recommendation that covers all FE colleges in England.

If the AoC recommendation is rejected in this consultative ballot, FE members will be balloted for strike action whether they settle locally or not, so please ensure all FE members make their voice heard now by voting.

Finally, thank you for all your hard work in helping to update the membership records in advance of this ballot.

Christina McAnea

**Christina McAnea**  
National Secretary, Education and Children's Services  
UNISON