

UNISON/UNITE (T&G)

Bulletin

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British Waterways Pay Update

The NJF met on Monday 13 July to discuss the unions membership's 85% rejection to this years pay claim. During fraught and lengthy discussions the unions stressed to BW how unhappy staff were at receiving no pay increase as recognition for all their hard work over the past 12 months and that morale amongst staff was extremely low with everything that is currently ongoing within the company. Although inflation was currently very low food prices, fuel bills and the general cost of living had not been reduced sufficiently to reflect this, with this in mind the unions requested BW consider a consolidated lump sum for all staff.

BW reiterated their financial situation stating that there was no money in the 'pot' for a pay increase of any description for their staff and that their Government budget will be reduced again next year putting additional pressure on BW. As a result of the reductions and the financial situation BW's directors would not be accepting bonuses and will not receive a salary increase for this year. The meeting was concluded with BW stating regrettably there would be no salary increase this year for staff and this is their final position.

The trade union side met following the meeting to consider its next steps. After a detailed debate it was agreed that a ballot for industrial action was not the way forward but that the trade union side would mount a vigorous campaign highlighting the threats to the future of our members employed by British Waterways. A small committee has been set up to develop the campaign and is due to meet on the 21 July; members will be kept informed of any plans of action.
