



SC/ASC/01/10
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**UNISON HEALTH GROUP
 ANCILLARY & MAINTENANCE NATIONAL SECTOR COMMITTEE**

Notes of the Meeting of the Ancillary & Maintenance National Sector Committee held on Thursday 11 February 2010 at 12 noon in Meeting Room 3.3, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AJ.

Present: Len Hockey (Greater London), Sam Godfrey (East Midlands), Hugh McDyer (Wales), Pat Usher (West Midlands), Adrian O'Malley (Yorkshire & Humberside), Dave Griffiths (Maintenance Co-optee)

Staff: Dave Godson (Committee Secretary), Kevin Russell (Committee Administrator)

AGENDA

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action/ Responsibility</u>
1	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from George Barron (Northern) and Morag Houston (Scotland)	
2	Notes of the Previous Meeting The notes of the meeting held on 25 November 2009 were agreed as an accurate record.	
3	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under item 4 of the 25 November 2009 sector meeting notes, it was confirmed that a Cleaners Focus Group has been agreed for Health Conference 2010. It is also planned to launch a Cleaners Charter at the conference. • Under item 9, the committee received an update on the state of the Structures Review. A motion has gone 	

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	to Health Conference that is intended to enable the changes resulting from the rule book amendment agreed by National Delegate Conference to take place. Meanwhile, discussions are taking place with the regions over the proposals for new occupational groups.	
4	<p>Amendments for Health Conference 2010</p> <p>The committee agreed an amendment from the sector to Health Conference 2010 that broadens motion 40 with an explanation of the developing threat to the NHS Pension Scheme and calls for a campaign to defend it.</p>	HM / DG
5	<p>Pay, Terms & Conditions</p> <p>The committee received the written presentation provided to the Service Group Executive for its 17 February meeting, which set out the following main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NHS Pay Review Body agreed not to seek a remit for reopening the 2.25% pay uplift scheduled for the final year of the multi-year deal; • The mileage allowance review is almost ready for consultation on the basis of a single fixed rate, cutting of lump sum payments and encouragement of a “green” agenda; • The Staff Council has instructed the on-call review group to develop an alternative means of meeting its timetable for implementation by April 2011, after it became apparent that NHS Employers cannot deliver the technology to support the original methodology; • A resolution has been agreed to problems in annual leave pay that will be implemented from April 2010; • A Staff Council funded external review of problems in the implementation of the Knowledge and Skills Framework is due to make its recommendations by March 2010 with a view to taking remedial steps by July 2010; • A range of reviews are planned or under way covering contributions to professional registration fees, Independent Safeguarding Authority registration fees, subsistence allowance, Annexe T, national recruitment and retention premia and the injury benefit scheme; • A Staff Council Working Group is costing proposals for merger of Bands 1 and 2, reduction in the length of Bands 6 and 7, and reduction in the hours of the working week; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NHS Pensions Choice exercise is under way and the Staff Passport has been established for staff in England; • Agenda for Change faces major challenges from the financial constraints imposed on the NHS post 2011, the political fallout of the next general election, the impact of devolution on UK agreements and the steady move toward more and more foundation trusts. 	
6	<p>Privatisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few new developments on privatisation were reported from around the regions, reflecting an apparent lull in the pressure coming from government as the general election approaches. • Wales reported that its principal agenda concerns trying to hold on to the agreements that it has, but ancillary staff are coming under greater pressure as trusts search for cuts. • Yorkshire and Humberside reported that it has faced the strange position of private contractors guaranteeing budgets while in-house services are vulnerable to trust cuts. • It was noted that merger of health services with local government can cause as serious a threat to terms and conditions as privatisation. 	
7	<p>Membership, Recruitment and Retention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee received graphs showing quarterly joining figures for the ancillary sector as a whole and the principal occupational groups within it. The resulting discussion made the following main points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Total joiners had risen 26% in the fourth quarter of 2009 compared to the third quarter, driven heavily by catering joiners; ii) Spikes in recruitment for maintenance and security staff were thought to be down to tighter definitions of job types; iii) For future reports, total membership data would be broken down by job type and joiners would be shown by region; iv) On-line joining was a generally positive development but it also meant that data on job type is less accurate. v) The lack of a members only section to the UNISON website meant that the union's work is 	KR

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	<p>available to anyone. However, a protected area of the site is under development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee noted that the winter edition of the Ancillary Matters Newsletter had received positive feedback. The next edition is due for completion by the end of March. • The recruitment leaflet targeted on catering, cleaning and portering staff has suffered delays but is expected to be completed soon. 	
8	<p>Sector Budget</p> <p>The latest figures on the sector budget were not available. However, it was reported that the sector remains broadly in budget and has successfully argued for a larger budget over the financial year.</p>	
9	<p>Future Meetings</p> <p>The committee noted that its next meeting will take place on 23 June 2010, when the newly elected sector reps will be present for the annual general meeting.</p>	
10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee agreed to distribute sponsorship forms on behalf of Adrian O'Malley, who is running the Brighton Marathon for UNISON Welfare. • It was agreed by a majority decision that the committee would endorse Dave Prentis in the elections for UNISON general secretary. • The committee noted that Sam Godfrey and Pat Usher would attend Health Conference as the sector delegates. 	<p>DG</p> <p>DG</p>