

Do you work for British Gas?

Do you spend your time looking after
British Gas Customers?
So who looks after you?

UNISON does



UNISON is the UK's leading public service trade union. We are also one of the largest unions in the Energy sector and have many thousands of members working for British Gas. As well as looking after you in the workplace we are also campaigning for a better deal for energy customers, an end to fuel poverty and a more sustainable and greener future.

Join today and be part of that campaign.

Ten good reasons for British Gas staff to join UNISON



Photographs: Chris Taylor

- 1.** UNISON is the largest public service union, and one of the biggest unions in the Energy and Utility sector. We champion the vital work of our members in British Gas and recognise the challenging work they do, UNISON is proud to represent you.
- 2.** We support you on a one-to-one basis. Whatever your job in British Gas our representatives can help – in many cases, they will be doing the same job as you.
- 3.** Our national negotiating team negotiates your pay and conditions at the relevant British Gas National Joint Council. We make sure your views count when we are negotiating on your behalf.
- 4.** You will get access to professional help through our network of local stewards and branch officers. Wherever you work in British Gas a UNISON rep is on hand to help if you have a problem.
- 5.** We offer legal help if your case needs to be dealt with by UNISON'S solicitors, via your local UNISON branch. We also offer a range of other legal services should you require them.
- 6.** UNISONdirect, 0845-355-0845 our telephone helpline, offers 'out-of-hours' help and advice on a range of workplace issues and all the other services UNISON has to offer.
- 7.** UNISON's health and safety representatives advise on health, safety and welfare at work. They will also help you to take a claim if you are injured in the course of your work.
- 8.** We support members in developing their roles. We recognise that modernising the workforce brings real benefits in job satisfaction and reward to UNISON members.
- 9.** UNISON is a campaigning union. We work hard to influence the political process in favour of our member's and the vital roles they perform. It's not just in the workplace that we want things to be better; it is in the local community and the wider society too.
- 10.** In UNISON we try to think of everything, including accident benefit for work related injuries, insurance and mortgage deals, holiday club and holiday village in Devon, health and dental plans and access to UNISON welfare 'There For You' supporting members and their families when life gets tough.

Join UNISON today

PLEASE FILL IN THIS FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS USING BLACK INK AND GIVE IT TO YOUR UNISON REP OR STEWARD OR POST TO FREEPOST RSKU-RRCA-HHSJ, UNISON, UNISON CENTRE, 130 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON NW1 2AY

1. YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS

Please tick or fill in the boxes below

Mrs	Ms	Miss	Mr	Other
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First name	Other initial(s)
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Surname/Family name	Date of birth / /
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Home address
Postcode

National insurance number (from your payslip)
<input type="text"/>

<input type="checkbox"/> Please tick this box if you require materials in a different format (eg large print or Braille) – be sure to supply contact details below
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How would you describe your ethnic origin?

<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Black UK
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> White UK
<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> White Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian UK		

Please give a telephone number/voice/text/email address for UNISON to contact you – indicate if work or home

Contact tel/voice/text/email

2. YOUR EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Employer's name

Your job title/occupation

Department/section

Workplace name and address
Postcode

Payroll number (from your payslip)

3. WHAT YOU WILL PAY – FROM 1 October 2003

Please tick the appropriate box for your earnings before deductions.

Weekly pay	Annual pay	YOUR SUBSCRIPTION—WHAT YOU PAY			Please tick the appropriate box to indicate how often you are paid
		per week	per month	Band	
Up to £38.47	Up to £2,000	£0.30	£1.30	A	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly
£38.48–£96.16	£2,001–£5,000	£0.81	£3.50	B	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly
£96.17–£153.84	£5,001–£8,000	£1.22	£5.30	C	<input type="checkbox"/> Four Weekly
£153.85–£211.53	£8,001–£11,000	£1.52	£6.60	D	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly
£211.54–£269.23	£11,001–£14,000	£1.81	£7.85	E	<input type="checkbox"/> Please tick this box if you are a student member in full-time education (including student nurses or Modern Apprentices). Your subscription is £10 per year.
£269.24–£326.92	£14,001–£17,000	£2.24	£9.70	F	
£326.93–£384.61	£17,001–£20,000	£2.65	£11.50	G	
£384.62–£480.76	£20,001–£25,000	£3.23	£14.00	H	
£480.77–£576.92	£25,001–£30,000	£3.98	£17.25	I	
£576.93–£673.08	£30,001–£35,000	£4.68	£20.30	J	
£673.08+	over £35,000	£5.19	£22.50	K	

4. POLITICAL FUND

UNISON's Affiliated Political Fund (APF) is used to campaign for and promote UNISON policy and the need for quality public services within the Labour Party, locally and nationally, in Parliament and Europe. UNISON APF affiliates to the Labour Party.

UNISON's General Political Fund (GPF) is used to pay for campaigning at branch, regional and national levels of the union and for research and lobbying in Parliament and Europe. It is independent of support for any political party.

It is important that you indicate a choice of fund by ticking one of the boxes below.

Your subscription shown above includes a political fund payment so you do not pay any more by being in one of the funds.

5. YOUR AUTHORISATION

- I wish to join UNISON and accept its rules and constitution.
- I authorise deduction of UNISON subscriptions from my salary/wages at the rate determined by UNISON in accordance with its rules to be paid over to them on my behalf and I authorise my employer to provide information to UNISON to keep my records up to date.
- I authorise deduction of the following Political Fund payment as part of my subscription: tick one box only

Affiliated Political Fund General Political Fund

Now please sign and date below

Signature

OTHER WAYS TO PAY

direct debit

cheque

(please tick if appropriate)

If you have been a member of a trade union before, please state which one:

DATA PROTECTION

UNISON will process your membership information together with other information for administration, statistical analysis, conducting ballots and other statutory requirement purposes.

We may also send you newsletters, journals and surveys and let you know about educational and campaigning matters. We will disclose your information to our service providers and agents for these purposes.

If you do not want any mailings from UNISON besides those required by statute as shown in bold above, please tick this box.

We may share your information with organisations with whom we have a business relationship for your benefit. We, or they, may contact you by mail, telephone, SMS, fax or e-mail to let you know about goods, services or promotions which we think may be of interest to you.

If you do not wish to receive such information please tick this box.

Instructions to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit



Please fill in the whole form including official use box using a ball point pen and give it to your UNISON rep or steward or post to UNISON, FREEPOST (WC5652), London WC1H 9BR

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

Originator's identification number

To the manager	Bank/building society
Address	
Postcode	

9	7	0	0	5	0
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Reference number (for office use only do not complete)

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INFORMATION FOR UNISON USE ONLY
This is not part of the instructions to your bank or building society

Name(s) of Account holder(s)

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Instruction to your bank or building society
Please pay UNISON Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with UNISON and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Bank/building society account number

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Signature(s)
Date

Branch sort code

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Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

THE DIRECT DEBIT GUARANTEE

- This guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that take part in the Direct Debit scheme. The efficiency and security of the scheme is monitored and protected by your own bank or building society.
- If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change, UNISON will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or otherwise agreed.

- If an error is made by UNISON or your bank/ building society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time, by writing to your bank or building society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.



To find out more about UNISON and what it can do for you, go to unison.org.uk



Jane was working in a large call centre as a customer advisor when she suffered bouts of anxiety and depression which impacted on her attendance at work. If suffering from depression and anxiety was not bad enough she was progressed through an attendance management procedure and eventually dismissed. Fortunately Jane was a UNISON member and they stepped in to help preparing a detailed appeal challenging the decision on a number of grounds including the fact the illness was covered under the Disability Discrimination Act and reasonable adjustments in the workplace had not been made. The appeal was a success and Jane was given her job back with the right adjustments in place. Jane was delighted and said “when I needed UNISON they were there for me, fighting my corner, I could not have dealt with my situation alone”

Pauline was employed on a probationary contract as a customer advisor in a busy call centre. When her performance fell short of target she was given a further probationary period. During this extended probationary period she became pregnant and suffered from severe morning sickness and anaemia. This combination impacted on her ability to again reach the set performance required and at her final review her contract was not renewed. Pauline had joined UNISON on her first day at work and so they appealed this decision on the basis that her targets had not been adjusted to take account of her pregnancy related condition. The appeal was a success and Pauline was appointed onto a permanent contract and was able to apply for and get the companies own maternity leave scheme. Pauline thanked UNISON saying “it was not just me they were helping but my new baby, I could look forward to a positive future instead of worrying about it”



Christine was a part time energy advisor with 10 years' service. She had a well established shift pattern which fitted in with looking after three children. Christine was upset when suddenly it was announced by local management that they were going to introduce new shift patterns and took a very unsympathetic line to those unable to make this new pattern work. Judith was given just four weeks' notice of changes and so as a member she approached UNISON for help. UNISON supported Christine by raising her concerns first with local management and when that was not successful they appealed through more formal channels which secured for Christine a positive outcome. She was allowed to move internally to a new department on the same site without detriment and in doing keep the same shift patterns.

David worked as a sales advisor in a highly pressurised sales environment. He regularly worked in excess of 60 hours week and his health and family life was beginning to suffer. David was asked into a meeting with his manager in a local coffee shop. David was advised his performance was slipping and he needed to work more hours to take more appointments to improve his sales, he was advised if he didn't do this he would be dismissed. David immediately got in touch with UNISON. They helped him successfully raise a grievance against his manager for failing to follow process and was able to get David's working hours under control and secure for him support and coaching to improve his sales. Sean said "I felt I was drowning, I couldn't handle the volume of work and hours and I felt under so much pressure. I could not believe no help was offered, just threats. I am so glad that I was in UNISON, they supported me through such a difficult time"

Join UNISON today

Fill in this form, join online at unison.org.uk/join or call 0845 355 0845 for more information



UNISON has more than a million members delivering essential services to the public, this includes thousands of members in Energy and Utility companies within the UK. These services are essential and matter to our communities.

We want to see changes that put people before profit and public interest before greed. Add your voice today to our campaign to create a fair and just society.

To find out more about UNISON and what it can do for you, go to unison.org.uk

Your local UNISON steward / representative is:

a million
voices
for
public
services