



NOTIFICATION OF BALLOT TO ELECT UNISON GENERAL SECRETARY

Candidates

The following have been confirmed as candidates in this election. Their names are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot paper and in the election address booklet.

Roger Bannister, Knowsley Branch

Nominated by 25 branches

John Burgess, Barnet Local Government Branch

Nominated by 62 branches and 1 regional council

Dave Prentis, General Secretary

Nominated by 204 branches, 8 regional councils, 6 service groups and the National Executive Council

Heather Wakefield, UNISON National (Staff) Branch

Nominated by 81 branches, 1 regional council, and 1 service group

Voting Process

Members not on the UNISON central membership system on 9 August 2015 will not be eligible to vote in this election. Retired members are entitled to vote.

Ballot papers will be sent to members' home or other notified address in writing. Members will be provided with a pre paid envelope for the return of the ballot paper to the independent Scrutineer. All voting will be by post.

Ballot Papers

The despatch of ballot papers to individual members will begin on 9 November 2015.

The ballot pack will consist of:

- A covering letter from the Executive Office Director
- A booklet containing the candidates election addresses and a full list of nominating bodies
- A ballot paper
- A return envelope.

Where members have previously requested (via the RMS) materials in a special format e.g. in large print, they will automatically receive the ballot pack in that format. Any additional requests should be made to the ballot helpline.

Ballot Helpline

If individual members have not received a paper by 16 November 2015, they should contact the ballot helpline operated by UNISONdirect on the following telephone number.

0800 0 857 857

Lines are open from 6am to midnight Monday to Friday and on Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

Members with hearing difficulties can use textphone 0800 0 967 968.

Members should endeavour to have their membership number to hand when telephoning.

The latest point at which members can request a ballot paper is 12 noon on 1 December 2015.

Please note that the ballot helpline can only deal with queries from individual members. If branches believe there is a widescale problem with receipt of ballot papers amongst their members (for instance if whole departments or geographical areas have not received ballot papers) then the branch should contact their regional office.

Publicity Items

Branches will by now have received a pack of materials to promote participation in this election, which includes:

Leaflets (stock item 3572)

Posters (stock item 3571)

Stickers (stock item 3578)

If your branch requires additional supplies they can order them through the following channels

www.unison.org.uk/onlinecatalogue

Telephone order line 0207 121 5481 or email stockorders@unison.co.uk

Result and Close of Ballot

The deadline for receipt of ballot papers by the Scrutineer is 5pm on Friday 4 December 2015.

The result of this election will be available on 17 December 2015.

Independent Scrutineer and Returning Officer

The Scrutineer for this election is Electoral Reform Services, the contact details for which are:

ERS

The Election Centre,

33 Clarendon Rd,

London.

N8 0NW

Tel 0208 365 8909

Fax 0208 365 8587

Email unison@electoralreform.co.uk

Queries

In the first instance any query regarding this circular or this election should be directed to the Member Liaison Unit at the union's head office at the UNISON Centre.

Direct dial 0207 121 5399

Fax 0207 121 5196

Email elections@unison.co.uk

Complaints

Any complaint about the conduct or fairness of this election must be received by Electoral Reform Services (details above) by no later than 5pm on 11 December 2015. Complaints must be in writing and should enclose any supporting documentation.