

The Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

11 December 2017

Dear Chancellor,

The Local Government Settlement - NJC pay award

We are writing to you for the fourth time to press home our case for a decent pay award for school support staff and local government workers – and to provide for this in the forthcoming Local Government Settlement.

As we outlined in our previous letters, our members within the National Joint Council (NJC) are the lowest paid group of public sector workers – having undergone a 22% cut in basic pay since 2010. On top of that, many have had their pay-related conditions cut, reducing their earnings further. 78% of them are women and many are struggling to survive, along with their children and families.


This decline in our members' income has been driven by the Government's cuts to local government finance – which will amount to 75% by 2020. The Local Government Association has made a pay offer to us of 2% in 2018 and in 2019, as well as bottom-loading to ensure that the lowest pay point is aligned with the National Living Wage. There is also some restructuring of the pay spine to deal with the compression at the bottom of it arising from the need to keep up with National Living Wage increases. These have not so far been funded.

The cost of the offer to local government will be £623 million – not a huge sum. Obviously the DoFE will meet the cost of the offer to school support staff. Research from the New Policy Institute - which we sent to you previously - shows that almost 50% of the cost of the offer will be recouped by central government in the form of increased tax and National insurance 'take' and reduced expenditure on in-work benefits. This could be recycled to councils to ease the funding of the pay award.

We are disappointed not to have received a response to our previous letters to you or the Prime Minister.

We hope that you will at least take note of our correspondence and respond in making the local government settlement.

Yours Sincerely,



Rehana Azam
GMB



Heather Wakefield
UNISON



Jim Kennedy
Unite