



GMB @ Durham County Council

Welcome to your Spring 2015 Newsletter!

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GMB will be holding a free Easter Raffle on the 31st March

The Raffle will be drawn on membership numbers so GMB members don't need to do anything to take part.

Winners will be contacted by
the GMB Branch Office



The 2016 Pay Claim Campaign For Local Authorities And Schools Starts Now!

For the 1.5 million staff working in local authorities and schools, the pay deal agreed at the end of last year means that the next pay anniversary date will be April 2016. Negotiations for 2016 will get under way in just a few months. GMB and the other trade unions believe they are likely to be just as tough as in recent years, so it is vital that we set out our agenda and start campaigning as early as possible.

This is your opportunity to decide the Trade Union claim

The campaign starts with GMB giving you, our members, the chance to say what goes into our claim. For those not familiar with the process, the trade unions agree the items that we are going to ask for (the 'claim') and we present this in a formal submission to the national employer negotiators. Before that, GMB takes views on what should go into the claim, which we discuss at a national meeting of senior lay representatives from around the country to decide what to take forward on behalf of GMB members. As well as a pay rise, the sort of items that are usually discussed might be improvements to existing conditions, like holidays, or new ideas, like the Living Wage.

What can we ask for?

The negotiations are national and so the things that can be discussed must be applicable nationally. So, for example, asking for something that would only apply to particular circumstances in a local authority or individual school are not for the national negotiations (but can be taken up locally with your GMB branch). The existing set of national terms and conditions are contained in handbooks, for most staff that will be the 'Green Book'.

Most importantly, the things you ask for must be what you are prepared to campaign for. The employer negotiators do not give us anything just for asking - we have to back up what we claim with campaigning and that sometimes involves industrial action. For example, I believe that all local government workers deserve a big pay rise but to get one in these days of budget cuts will require a massive campaigning effort from everyone. So as well as what you want we would also like to know how you can help to achieve it.

How to have your say

All of our GMB Regions and officers and branches will be arranging meetings, visits or direct communications to give all GMB members in local authorities and schools the chance to have a say. If for any reason those communications do not reach you, you can still have your say by emailing your ideas to gmb@durham.gov.uk by 20 April 2015.

I hope that as many GMB members as possible will contribute ideas so that when we hold our meeting to decide what goes forward, towards the end of April, we have a good picture of what you want and what campaigning we can do to achieve it. I will of course let you know the outcome and keep you informed as our campaigning develops.

Brian Strutton

Brian Strutton

National Secretary - Public Services

GMB CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS FOR THE 2016 LOCAL GOVT PAY CLAIM

PAY

There are different kinds of pay rise: a percentage pay rise (e.g. x% of salary), a flat-rate pay rise (e.g. everyone's salary increasing by £xxx), or a combination (e.g. x% or £xxx, whichever is greater)

I think the claim should be for a PERCENTAGE / FLAT-RATE / COMBINATION pay rise (*Delete as appropriate*)

How much?

CONDITIONS

What national terms and conditions do you think should be improved or new terms and conditions introduced?

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.....

.....

I think the claim should focus on getting as much on pay as possible, rather than terms and conditions YES / NO (*Delete as appropriate*)

ANY OTHER THINGS THE TRADE UNION CLAIM SHOULD COVER?

.....

WHAT CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES MIGHT YOU LIKE TO SEE (AND GET INVOLVED IN)?

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Email your answers to gmb@durham.gov.uk by 20 April 2015

Durham Living Wage Agreed

It was agreed at Full Council on 3rd December 2014 to remove Spinal Column Points 5-9 from the Council's pay and grading structure with effect from 1 January 2015 and implement a 'Durham Living Wage' of Spinal Column Point 10 (£7.43 per hour) for all Durham County Council employees.

The proposals, which will come into effect from 1 January, 2015, will mean that the lowest paid GMB Members in Durham County Council will see a increase on their pays in January followed by a incremental payment in April 2015 which will take their rate of pay to £7.88 per hour

Consultation had taken place with the Regional Trade Union Officials from GMB who were fully in support of the recommendations of the Working Group.

A Significant majority of schools have already agreed to implement the Durham Living Wage and we hope all other Schools will confirm their commitment by the end of the year.

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HOME INSURANCE UIA

We Guarantee to beat your current home insurance premium

It's easy to take advantage of our extra special offer for GMB members. Simply give us a call, tell us a few details about your home and what you're currently paying, and we'll offer you cheaper cover guaranteed*.

Just one phone call to us today could cut the cost of your home insurance, so what are you waiting for? Give us a call now on 0800 072 9922^ (01438761651 for mobile users).

R.I.P Billy Hughes



R.I.P Billy - You will be sadly missed

Billy Hughes Northern Region President sadly passed away in December.

Billy was a fantastic Bloke he always had time for everyone.

Five branch officers attended Billy's Funeral in January along with our Officer Terry Scarr. Terry, Jimmy Jamieson, David Clegg and Les Timbey were honoured to hold the GMB Banners at the service.

GMB Congress 2015 - Dublin

David Clegg and Les Timbey have been nominated from the Branch to attend Congress this year



Keep up-to-date with GMB



Please **like** the GMB Durham local Authority facebook page to keep up to date with Local and National activities.

You can also visit the branch website and Durham County Bulletin Board for all the latest information.

GMB Social Events for 2015

Dates to Follow



July 11th - Durham Miners Gala Social Night

**July /August - Football Tickets for Sunderland
and Newcastle**

August/September - Trip to Whitby

November - Christmas Shopping Trip

GMB Members at York 2014

Great Day was had by all GMB Members

The Weather was even good.



GMB @ Durham County Council

Section 188 and Restructures

With all the ongoing Section 188 notices and restructures

Please call the Branch office if you are affected and need representation

03000 268134/268135

E-mail gmb@durham.gov.uk

Branch Meetings 2015

The GMB Branch Meetings are held at 5pm in County Hall Durham

17th February 2015

27th August 2015

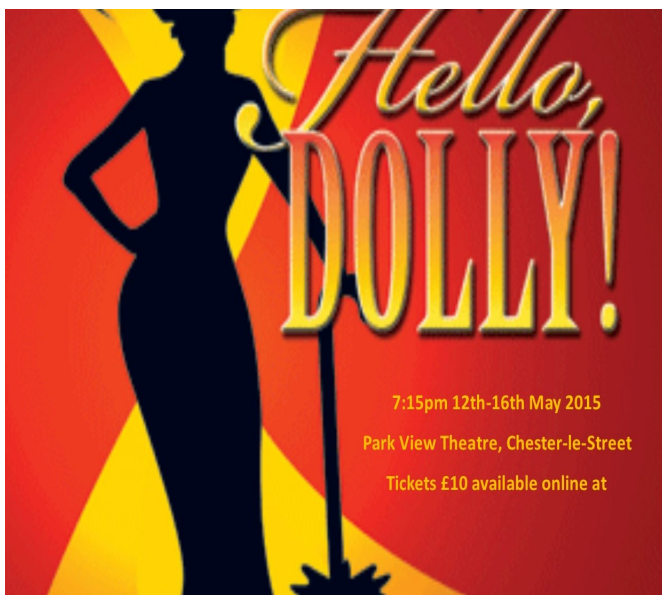
11th May 2015

25th November 2015

Hello Dolly Discount Tickets

Riverside theatre company

Parkview theatre Chester-Le-Street



GMB Members who would like discount tickets please contact Anne on 0191 3857500 using the code GMB01

GMB @ Durham County Council



£20 OFF CAR INSURANCE
FOR GMB MEMBERS

PLUS GMB MEMBER DISCOUNT WITH LV=

£20 OFF CAR INSURANCE

Call today to get your discount
0800 756 8306 **QUOTE XCER**

*To receive £20 off a new car insurance policy you must be a current GMB member and state discount code XCER when you call 0800 756 8306 (sorry, this offer is not available on our website). This offer is for your first year of cover only and is valid for quotes given until 31/12/2014. LV= reserve the right to change the terms and conditions and to withdraw the offer at any time. **This offer is in addition to the GMB member discount.** GMB acts as an Introducer Appointed Representative to the Liverpool Victoria group of companies for General Insurance.

LV=
LIVERPOOL VICTORIA

For TextDirect: first dial 18001. Lines are open Mon-Fri 8am-9pm, Sat 8am-5pm, Sun 9am-5pm. Calls may be recorded.

GMB
GMB @ WORK

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Membership Details

Please contact the Branch office if you have moved house or changed your name it is important we have all your correct information

With all the cuts facing Local Governments

Now is the time to Join GMB

Contact Branch office on 03000 268135 or e-mail gmb@durham.gov.uk

Also forms can be downloaded at www.gmb.org.uk/join

And returned to GMB Office 4th Floor County Hall Durham DH1 5UY