GMB

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GMB @ DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Welcome to the GMB Local Authority Branch Spring 2020 Newsletter

In this Spring edition you will find:

Local Government Pay Claim	Page 2
Coronavirus	Pages 3-6
International Women's Day	Page 7
Social Events 2020	Page 8
Mental Health Awareness Day	Page 9
Domestic Abuse Charter	Page 10
Easter Egg Raffle	Page 11
GMB Benefits & Services	Pages 12-18
Social Media	Page 19
Keeping In Touch/Section 188's	Page 20
Contact Details	Page 21
Application Forms	Pages 22-23

Everyone at the branch would like to wish all members and their families a Happy Easter!

We are currently going through some challenging times so we hope that everyone remains safe and well





Local Government Pay Claim 2020/2021

Every year, GMB looks to secure the best possible pay deal for Local Government workers due to the ongoing cuts they have had to face



This year the branch lobbied at The Riverside Cricket Ground in Chester-Le-Street to gain support for the campaign





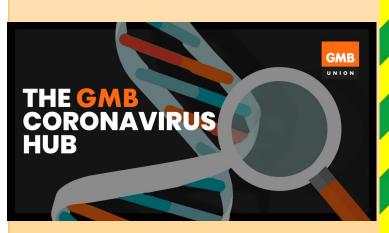


The Coronavirus pandemic has hit the country hard and has impacted everyone's way of life

GMB are doing all they can to ensure their members are kept safe throughout the crisis both at home and at work



GMB showed its full support to the hard working staff in the NHS and the Care Sector while they helped the most vulnerable through the toughest of times



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BE PROTECTED

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18/05/20

GMB Update on Government proposals to increase school and early years pupil numbers in England from 1st June

On Friday 15 May GMB, along with other education unions, met with Professor Chris Whitty the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Patrick Vallance the government's Chief Medical Advisor, along with other government scientists and members of SAGE (Scientific advisory group for emergencies) to discuss the risks of Coronavirus transmission by children, and the science behind the proposals to widen the opening of schools from 1 June.

GMB asked the following questions on behalf of schools members:

'What evidence do you have that younger children cannot transmit the virus as easily as adults can, and therefore pose a significant risk to adults in schools, families and the wider community?'

'Would you agree that PPE would be beneficial for staff working closely with children for example providing first aid, and administering medication?'

'You have mentioned data about risks to the teaching profession. But not other school staff who will be providing the physically closest care for young children. Why not?'

Whilst the meetings were very useful and welcomed by the unions, there remain many unanswered questions and unsatisfactory responses to our concerns which means that GMB, along with the other unions, do not feel satisfied that our members can yet be assured that there safety is paramount.

GMB's position, therefore, is that 1 June is wholly unrealistic, and we will continue to oppose the large increase to pupil numbers from that date.





March 2020

Coronavirus

GMB advice for School Cleaners, Site Managers and other school support staff

GMB are concerned that GMB members are being put at risk if they are asked to conduct a 'deep clean' in addition to or instead of their routine cleaning duties as a result of an incidence of COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus) in their school. Worse still is where additional pressure is put on staff to complete this work at speed to get the establishment open quickly again. Not only is this a risk to staff but of course to pupils and visitors to the school.

If you are asked to do this work please contact your GMB branch or region who will intervene and provide the necessary support to stop our members being put at potential risk.

Our advice to GMB branches where members are put in a similar situation is to contact the school and ensure they carry out the following:

- In advance of a deep clean, conduct a full risk assessment and COSHH assessment (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health)
- Contact their Local Health Protection Team for advice and support: www.gov.uk/health-protection-team
- Ensure that only fully trained staff are involved, if necessary, a specialist cleaning team may be necessary.
- Ensure that the correct PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is available.
- · Keep staff informed and advised of any developments.

Full details about the Coronavirus for GMB members is available on the following link, which provides an update for GMB members on controlling the risk of the Coronavirus, and full information on your Employers' duty of care to reduce the risks from exposure to biological hazards to as low as is reasonably practicable.

https://www.gmb.org.uk/coronavirus-what-members-need-know

The Department for Education has issued the following guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19

The DfE has also established a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows: Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk / Phone: 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

In addition, the trade unions have negotiated with the employers and agreed the following: "An employee who is prevented from attending work because of contact with infectious disease shall be entitled to receive normal pay. The period of absence on this account shall not be reckoned against the employee's entitlements under this scheme"

In the event that an employee is required to self-isolate or is placed in quarantine, the provision above should be applied.

If you work for an academy or a private contractor and are not sure if this applies to you, contact your local GMB branch.

If you are affected and need further guidance and support please contact GMB at publicservices@gmb.org.uk



UNION



March 2020

Coronavirus GMB advice for Cleaners in Local Government

GMB are concerned that GMB members are being put at risk if they are asked to conduct a 'deep clean' in addition to or instead of their routine cleaning duties as a result of an incidence of COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus) in their workplace. Worse still is where additional pressure is put on staff to complete this work at speed to get the establishment open quickly again. Not only is this a risk to staff but of course to visitors and service users.

If you are asked to do this work and have any concerns about it please contact your GMB branch or region who will intervene and provide the necessary support to ensure our members are not being put at unnecessary risk.

Our advice to GMB branches where members are put in a similar situation is to contact the employer and ensure they carry out the following:

- In advance of a deep clean, conduct a full risk assessment and COSHH assessment (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health)
- Contact their Local Health Protection Team for advice and support: www.gov.uk/healthprotection-team
- Ensure that only fully trained staff are involved, if necessary, a specialist cleaning team may be necessary.
- Ensure that the correct PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is available.
- Keep staff informed and advised of any developments.

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https://www.gmb.org.uk/coronavirus-what-members-need-know

Further information is available from the Local Government Association at:

https://www.local.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-councils

In addition, the trade unions have negotiated with the NJC employers and agreed the following: "An employee who is prevented from attending work because of contact with infectious disease shall be entitled to receive normal pay. The period of absence on this account shall not be reckoned against the employee's entitlements under this scheme"

In the event that an employee is required to self-isolate or is placed in quarantine, the provision above should be applied.

If you work for a private contractor and are not sure if this applies to you, contact your local GMB branch.

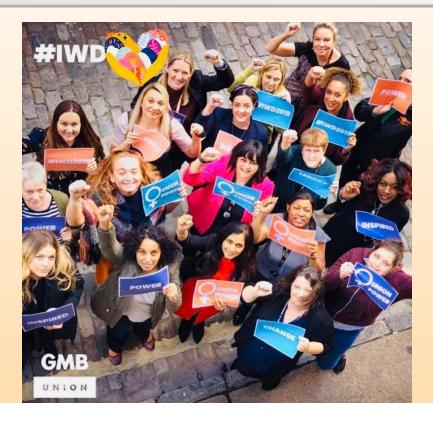
If you are affected and need further guidance and support please contact GMB at publicservices@gmb.org.uk

International Women's Day 2020

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The 8th March 2020 is International Women's Day

IWD is a time to reflect on the progress made over those years, whilst at the same time highlighting the challenges women continue to face in all areas of daily life. It is a time to show solidarity to women worldwide and to applaud the acts of ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their communities, countries and organisations



8th March 2020 is

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on the progress that has been made, to fight for change and greater rights, and to celebrate acts of courage and defiance by extraordinary women

Support Women in Your Workplace





Learn more at www.gmb.org.uk

Social Events 2020

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Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the branch has had to make the difficult decision to cancel all of this years Social Events in order to ensure all our members are kept safe

The safety of our members and their families is our number one priority and we would not wish to put anyone at any risk



<u>Due to the un-certainty of the recent outbreaks</u> of the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

GMB Durham Local Authority Branch has taken the decision to suspend the future social excursion to **Whitby**.

We have had to take this action with a heavy heart, but the welfare of our members always has to come first.

Please keep informed by following us on Facebook, phoning us or emailing the branch and checking workplace noticeboards.

03000 268135 gmb@durham.gov.uk We try and ensure that we publish any information regarding changes to the events on our social media platforms to ensure members are made fully aware with as much notice as possible



*** CANCELLED *** GMB @ DurhamMiners Gala 2020

Public · Hosted by GMB Durham Local Authority Branch

Mental Health Awareness Day



Mental Health Awareness Week is from 18-24 May 2020

This encourages members to focus on their mental health and that of their friends and family

This is especially more of a priority during the current crisis as many will find themselves struggling with the ongoing changes



Domestic Abuse Charter

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Council joins campaign to protect victims of domestic abuse

Published February 13, 2020 9.05am

A North East council has signed the Work to Stop Domestic Abuse charter as part of GMB's campaign for greater support for employees experiencing domestic abuse.



Durham county Council Domestic Abuse charter signing at County Hall.

Photo by: Silverbird Photography Emily Carey

(www.silverbirdphotography.com)

Representatives from the council and GMB signed the charter at our County Hall Headquarters

We pledged to support employees who are experiencing domestic abuse to access support services and information confidentially.

Cllr Simon Henig, our council leader; Terry Collins, our chief executive; and Joy Thompson, GMB branch secretary, signed the charter at our County Hall headquarters.

They were joined by Cllr Alan Napier, our council's deputy leader; Cllr Angela Surtees, Cabinet member for Social Inclusion; Cllr Andrea Patterson, Cabinet member for Corporate Services and Rural Issues, including HR; Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Cabinet member for Adult and Health Services; John Hewitt, corporate director of resources; Jane Robinson, corporate director of adult and health services; Amanda Healy, director of public health; and union representatives Julie Wynn, Tracy Metcalfe, David Clegg and Les Timbey from GMB, who all pledged their support for the campaign.

Easter Egg Raffle



This years Easter Egg raffle was also cancelled due to staff not being able to work in the offices

Th branch took the decision to donate all the eggs purchased to PACT House in Stanley and to children across the County



DUE TO THE COVID19 OUTBREAK THIS YEARS GMB MEMBERSHIP EASTER RAFFLE HAS HAD TO BE CANCELLED

The branch has taken the decision to give the eggs that we already purchased to PACT HOUSE STANLEY and to children in other areas of the county













We hope everyone has a great and safe Easter holiday

Best wishes from everyone in the Durham Local Authority GMB

branch



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GMB Extra

As part of your membership with GMB, you can access a range of discounts for you and your family. More information on all of these discounts can be found in the **My GMB** area of the GMB National Website (www.gmb.org.uk). These discounts include:



20% off National Express

We are proud to partner with <u>National Express</u> to offer all of our members this quality discount when travelling with National Express. This offer is a 20% discount off National Express full range of fares, including the cheapest online 'Restricted Fares'. The discount will apply to GMB members plus up to 3 others travelling with them and there will be a requirement to book at least 3 days in advance.



10% off at Go Ape!

Looking to discover some seriously adventurous things to do outdoors? Go Ape offer outdoor experiences and activities across 34 locations UK wide. From zip wires, to super-springy trampoline nets in the trees, to off-road Segways, Go Ape have an adventure for everyone. So, if you're looking to get the blood pumping, take on a challenge, or just have fun with your Tribe, a day of unforgettable action, laughter, and achievement awaits. Who will you share adventure with? GMB is proud to partner with Go Ape to offer our members 10% off.



Up to 49% discount at Alton Towers

We are proud to partner with <u>Alton Towers</u> to offer all of our members this quality discount. Unleash the 'Power of the Towers' this year as you share joy, laughter and thrills with family and friends at Britain's Greatest Escape! Enjoy an awesome choice of world-class rollercoasters including Wicker Man, Nemesis, Oblivion and The Smiler and a host of fantastic family attractions including the brand new 'Peter RabbitTM Hippity Hop' ride





Up to 48% off at LEGOLAND Windsor

We are proud to partner with <u>LEGOLAND Windsor</u> to offer all of our members this quality discount. For an awesome family day out this year visit the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort and experience the ultimate LEGO® adventure! With over 55 rides, live shows and attractions set over 150 acres of parkland plus a fully LEGO themed hotel on site, the LEGOLAND Windsor Resort is a family destination that is not to be missed!



Up to 49% discount at Warwick Castle

We are proud to partner with <u>Warwick Castle</u> to offer our members this quality discount. Experience 1,100 years of Great British history in one of England's finest medieval fortresses. Experience the fun of real history on a visit to Warwick Castle! Warwick Castle is one of the most exciting historic locations in Europe, set in the heart of Shakespeare's England with over 1,100 years of fascinating architecture and amazing views in 64 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds.



Save up to 40% at Shrek's Adventure! London

We are proud to partner with <u>Shrek's Adventure</u> to offer our members this quality discount. Join the search to find Shrek! A brilliantly bonkers interactive and immersive walkthrough experience, where the whole family can journey through Far Far Away as the stars of the show. See, hear, touch and smell the adventure by exploring 12 fairytale themed live shows, collecting the special ingredients that you will need in order to find Shrek and make it home safely!



UNION



Your perfect UK break. Haven offer the perfect base for your short break or holiday. When you join us on a Haven holiday, all our award-winning family holiday parks will give you the warmest welcome possible. We've made sure each of our 37 parks is on or near the coast, so the sound of the sea's never too far away. From under 5s getaways to dog friendly holidays and couples' retreats, we cater for everyone here at Haven. With over 100 indoor and outdoor activities to choose from at Haven, we have something suitable for the whole family, whatever your age or ability. All of our parks have great facilities and entertainment for all the kids – big ones and little ones. There's plenty to keep everyone busy. You'll find plenty of time to be together on your chosen Haven UK holiday.



Up to 40% off at LEGOLAND Discovery Centre

We are proud to partner with the <u>LEGOLAND Discovery Centre</u> to offer all of our members this quality discount. For a super fun family day out visit one of a LEGOLAND Discovery centre – the ultimate indoor LEGO® playground. In Birmingham you can enjoy a 4D Cinema, two rides, a build and test zone to improve all of your LEGO building skills, as well as a LEGO cafe to sit back and enjoy after a day of building. In Manchester you can enjoy three LEGO® rides, 11 LEGO® play zones, a 4D cinema AND the opportunity to become a NINJA with the awesome LEGO® NINJAGO® City Adventure!

PRIVILEGE PURCHASE CLUB

Privilege Purchase Club Discounts

Introducing the Hotpoint <u>Privilege Purchase Club</u> offering exclusive pricing on over 850 different appliances including four great brands to choose from, Kitchenaid, Whirlpool, Hotpoint & Indesit. Products range from washing machines, refrigeration, cookers and dishwashers to Hotpoint's Small Domestic Appliance range. Some appliances are already pre-discounted and in addition we offer at least an **extra 15% off** using their monthly voucher code, displayed on the homepage.





20% off Crown Paints

We are proud to partner with Crown Paints to offer all GMB members and their friends and family a 20% discount. With over 150 stores nationwide you're never too far away from your local Crown Decorating Centre to grab your discount. For more information about Crown Paints check out their website here.



Save on Glasses and Eye Tests at Vision Express

Built on a passion for the optical profession and a drive for unparalleled customer service, Vision Express take vision seriously. With coverage across the UK in over 600 stores, including selected Tesco Extra Stores.

- Free eye test, including digital retinal photography, upon purchase of complete glasses over
- Current national offer (e.g. 2 for 1 designer glasses) or save £30 on complete glasses
- 3-month's supply of soft disposable contact lenses when joining our contact lens Direct Debit scheme (Complete Contact Care) – terms and conditions apply
- 10% off non-prescription sunglasses

We'll allow a friend or family member to benefit from every one of these discounts as well, so let those closest to you receive the expert eye care they deserve.

funkypigeon.com

Funky Pigeon 20% discount

GMB is proud to partner with Funky Pigeon to offer all of our members this 20% discount on their products.





Hermes 10% discount

Need to send a parcel? As one of the UK's largest parcel delivery companies, Hermes offer a range of flexible, affordable & convenient delivery options. As 'The Parcel People', they know every parcel you send means a lot, which is why they mean a lot to Hermes too. So it's no surprise they're trusted to deliver over a million parcels in the UK every day, 7 days a week! With over 90% of you living within 2 miles of one of their 4,700 drop off locations, whatever it is you're sending, Hermes have you covered. With prices starting from as little as £2.26, you'll also get full tracking included as standard. GMB is proud to partner with Hermes to offer all of our members this 10% discount on their services.



TRACE ME Lost Luggage Protection Discount

We are proud to partner with <u>TRACE ME Luggage Tracker</u> to offer all of our members this discount.

Every year over 1 million bags go missing at airports globally, and are never returned to their owners. TRACE ME Smart ID luggage tag helps prevent that happening to you. It is compatible with baggage handling systems and works at virtually all airports and airlines around the world. It's secure, anonymous and provides you with complete peace of mind when you travel. No moving parts or batteries, always works where RFID, GSM or GPS signals are compromised. If your bag doesn't arrive, TRACE ME prevents it being lost forever and accelerates its return. You can get 40% off when you purchase TRACE ME Smart ID packs

UNION

UIA—Home Insurance Offer

Just one phone call to us today could cut the cost of your home insurance, so what are you waiting for?



- Great Value
- Interest-free monthly payments
- Extra 10% discount on Combined Buildings & Content policies
- Get up to £50 towards any switching costs your current insurer might charge
- 97% of people would recommend us**
- 100% UK-based call centres
- A dedicated, highly experienced Claims Team from the start to finish of any claim

Just call 0800 072 9922 (0143 876 1651 for mobile users)

GMB Road Traffic Fund



If you drive as part of your work then the Road Traffic Fund is ideal for you.

For just an additional 10p per week to your GMB contributions, the fund offers a variety of beneift for those who drive as part of their work, including the payment of speeding fines (conditions apply)

Joining the Road Traffic Fund couldn't be easier.

Contact the branch for more details



Highly rated insurance from LV=

Good news... GMB members are entitled to exclusive discounts on a wide range of LV= insurance products through your union membership.

5 Star rated cover – awarded by Defaqto, the independent financial researcher, for the 11th year in a row for being one of the best quality <u>car insurance</u> products on the market. With our comprehensive cover we offer features and benefits including accidental damage and personal accident cover.

LV= also offer <u>caravan insurance</u> as well as discounted rates to GMB members on the following insurance cover:

<u>Classic car insurance</u> – our comprehensive car insurance policy offers you protection for your pride and joy in case something should ever happen.

<u>Motorcycle insurance</u> – motorbike lovers can enjoy our motorcycle insurance with full cover of helmet and leathers and can protect their no claim discount if they have 4 years claim free for the life of their policy.

- Accidental damage to your car
- Uninsured driver promise no loss of No Claim Discount and no excess to pay
- Misfuelling cover if you accidentally fill your car with the wrong fuel
- New locks and keys if your keys are lost or stolen
- Unlimited cover for factory fitted phone, audio and sat nav equipment
- A new-for-old car replacement if yours is less than 12 months old
- £10,000 personal accident cover if you or your partner are injured
- Replacement child car seats
- £200 cover for personal belongings in your car

Contact the branch for more details

Social Media

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Please follow the GMB Durham Local Authority Branch on Social Media





@durhamgmb



@GMBDurham



@durhamgmb

Or visit our branch website

www.durhamgmb.info



Keeping In Touch/Section 188's

GMB

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The branch are keen to ensure that our members are always kept up to date

We are constantly updating our social media feeds, website and Bulletin Board notices with the latest news and events

We currently have a mailing list for internal and external members to receive information on our Social Events MAILING

If you would like to be added to this then please contact the branch with your email address

Section 188 Redundancy Notices and Restructures

Digital & Customer Services Restructure

Please contact the Branch if you receive a

Section 188 notice or your Service is going through a restructure.

Call us on 03000 268135

or

Email: gmb@durham.gov.uk

GMB Bulletins

Please note: up-to-the minute information for members is posted onto the Durham County Council bulletin board

Remember — You're better off in the GMB

Contact Details



UNION





OFFICE CLOSED

Although our branch office is presently closed, we are still monitoring our e-mails and contactable via phone

gmb@durham.gov.uk

Joy Thompson 03000 268134 Les Timbey 03000 268989 Tracy Metcalfe 03000 268135 David Clegg 03000 268138

Above all we hope you all remain well & stay safe

Best wishes your GMB team





JOIN NOW

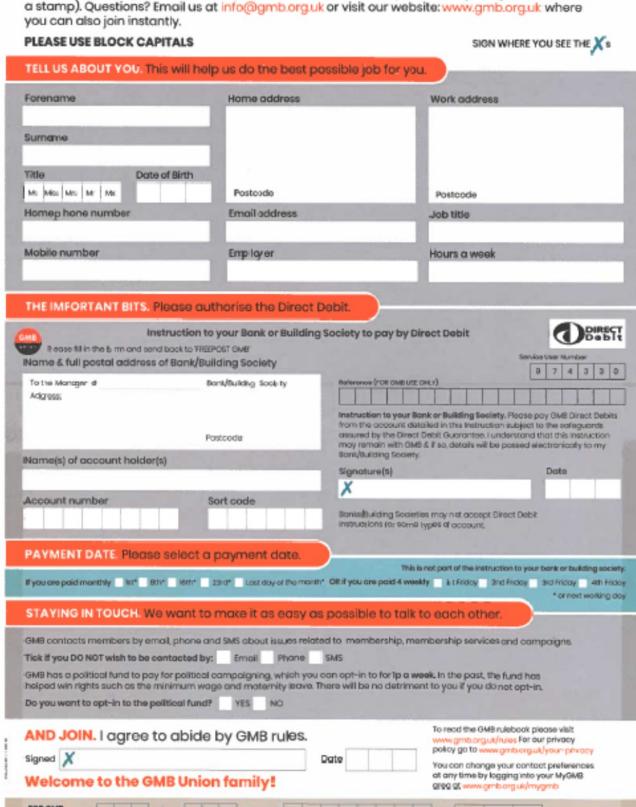
Application Form (Direct Debit)



UNION

Join em now for protection, support and advice.

Hand this form to your local GMB representative, or seal it and put it in the post (you do not need a stamp). Questions? Email us at info@gmb.org.uk or visit our website: www.gmb.org.uk where



Application Form (Check Off)

UNION



Join mow for protection, support and advice.

Hand this form to your local GMB representative, or seal it and put it in the post (you do not need a stamp). Questions? Email us at info@gmb.org.uk or visit our website: www.gmb.org.ut where you can also join instantly.

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PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS			SIGN WHERE YOU SEE THE X'S	
TELL US ABOUT YOU. This will help	us do the best p	ossible job for y	ou.	
Forename	Home address		Work address	
Surname				
Title Date of Birth	Postcode		Postcode	
Homep hone number	Email address		Job title	
Mobile number	Employ or		Hours a week	
THE IMPORTANT BITS. Please aut	thorise us to take	vour fees from v	your wages.	
Section 68 Trade Union and Labour	Pay number	your roos mornly	our ridges.	
Relations (Consolidated) Act 1992 as amended	T Gy Harrison			
Il authorise my employer to deduct from my pay each week/month the sum of	Please start the deductions immediately and pay the amounts to GMB. I note that this agreement may be cancelled by one month's notice in writing. I give permission to my employer to notify GMB of any future change of address.			
£ or other amounts as may be fixed by GMB from time to time.	Signature(s)		Date	
and to mod by small off this to time.	X			
STAYING IN TOUCH, We want to	make it as easy a	s possible to tal	lk to each other.	
GMB contacts members by email, phor	ne and SMS about issu	es related to mem	bership, membership services and campaigns	
Tick if you DO NOT wish to be contacted	d by: Email Ph	one SMS		
GMB has a political fund to pay for polit helped win rights such as the minimum	tical campaigning, who wage and maternity	nich you can opt-in leave. There will be	to for 1p a week . In the past, the fund has a no detriment to you if you do not opt-in.	
Do you want to opt-in to the political fu	und? YES NO			
AND ION I work to shid.	by GMB rules.			
AND JOIN. I agree to abide				
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Signed	n family!	www.gmb.orguk/rul policy go to www.gr You can change you	les For our privacy me orgun/your privacy ur contact preferences at pinto your MyGMB area at	