

Welcome to the GMB Local Authority Branch Autumn 2020 Newsletter

In this Spring edition you will find:

Local Government Pay Claim	Page 2
Coronavirus	Page 3
Public Sector Exit Cap	Page 4
Pay Consultation Survey 2021/22	Pages 5-6
Members Raffle	Page 7
Social Events 2020	Page 8
Looking After Your Mental Health	Pages 9-10
GMB Benefits & Services	Pages 11-17
Social Media	Page 18
Keeping In Touch/Section 188's	Page 19
Contact Details	Page 20
GMB Contribution Rates	Page 21
Application Forms	Pages 22-23



Local Government Pay Claim 2020/2021

GMB

UNION

Following ongoing talks with the Government and balloting our members, an agreement was made for 2020/21 pay rates for Local Government employees

National Joint Council for local government services

Employers' Secretary
Naomi Cooke

Address for correspondence
Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ
Tel: 020 7664 3000
info@local.gov.uk

Trade Union Secretaries
Rehana Azam, GMB
Jim Kennedy, Unite
Jon Richards, UNISON

Address for correspondence
UNISON Centre
130 Euston Road
London NW1 2AY
Tel: 0845 3550845
localgovernment@unison.co.uk

**To: Chief Executives in England, Wales and N Ireland
(copies for HR and Finance Directors)
Members of the National Joint Council**

24 August 2020

Dear Chief Executive,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES' PAY AGREEMENT 2020-21

Pay

Agreement has been reached between the National Employers and the NJC Trade Union Side on rates of pay applicable from **1 April 2020**.

UNISON and GMB both voted to accept whilst Unite voted to reject. However, in line with the Constitution of the NJC, Unite accepts the collective majority decision of the other unions that the pay award will now be implemented.

The new pay rates are attached at **Annex 1**. The new rates for allowances, up-rated by 2.75 per cent, are set out at **Annex 2**.

The NJC has also agreed to enter into discussions on examining all options for ensuring the sector – and the NJC pay spine - can meet the challenge of the Government's target for the National Living Wage in the coming years.

Annual Leave

The NJC has also agreed that from **1 April 2020**, minimum annual leave will increase from 21 to 22 days for employees with less than five years' service.

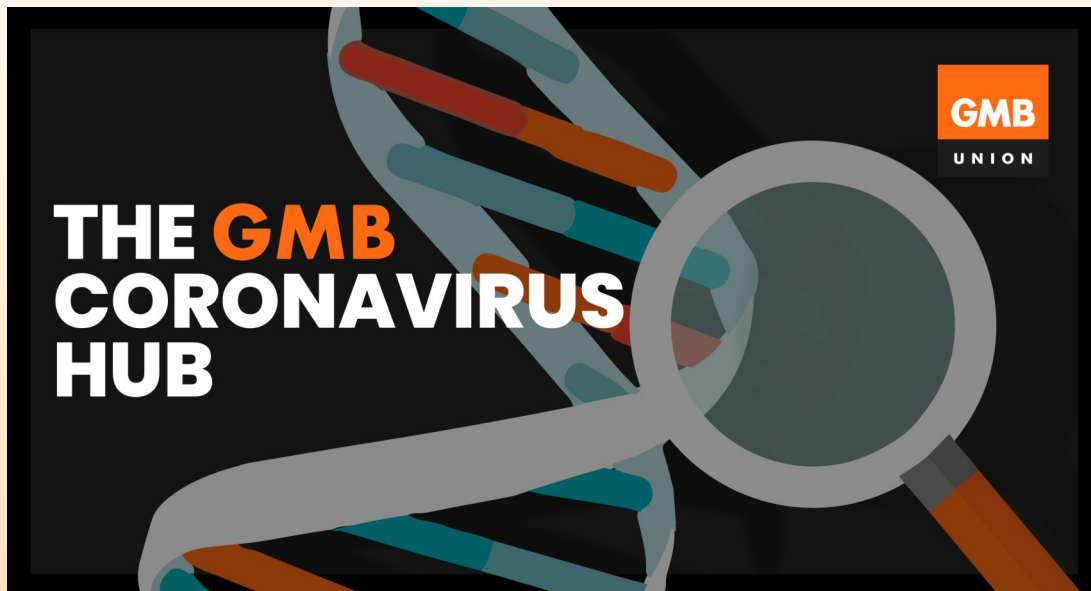
The National Agreement Part 2 Para 7.2 will therefore, with effect from **1 April 2020**, be amended to read as follows:

7.2 Annual Leave

The minimum paid annual leave entitlement is twenty-two days with a further three days after five years of continuous service. The entitlement as expressed applies to five day working patterns. For alternative working patterns an equivalent leave entitlement should be calculated.

GMB is doing all it can to ensure all our members are kept safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

We are here to help provide support and advice for all workers and have a “[Coronavirus Hub](#)” on our National website with all the information you need to help you through this difficult time



The hub provides information on all aspects of health and safety relating to the virus:

- ⇒ Latest Coronavirus News
- ⇒ Your Rights at Work
- ⇒ Personal Protective Equipment
- ⇒ Social Distancing
- ⇒ School Closures
- ⇒ Furloughing
- ⇒ Pension Implications
- ⇒ Test, Trace & Protect

GMB**U N I O N****22/10/2020**

Public Sector Exit Cap (£95K) Continued

The Governments proposals to limit Public Sector Exit Payments in England and Wales (separate arrangements exist for Scotland and Northern Ireland) to £95,000 have now been passed into legislation and are due to come into effect on Wednesday 4th November 2020.

There are particularly far reaching and negative consequences for GMB members employed in Local Government who are aged 55 and over and are made compulsory redundant. This is because after 4th November pension strain costs will be included in the exit calculation and this will take the majority of Local Government exit payments over the £95k cap.

GMB have written to the government to point out the regulations in their current form are unworkable, conflict with existing employment protections and will have a disproportionate impact on low paid workers in Local Government than was intended.

Due to the lack of any meaningful response we have now lodged an application with the courts to seek a Judicial Review of the regulations and we are hoping to have a hearing as soon as the courts allow.

GMB believe that the regulations are wholly unfair on our membership and that the government should withdraw them.

GMB urges you to contact your local GMB Branch/Office as a matter of urgency should your employer propose to make any compulsory redundancies.

We will endeavour to keep members updated on progress but please feel free to view the **GMB Public Sector Noticeboard** where Bulletins and other relevant documents will be posted.

If you are not a member of the GMB, **join today!**

Rehana Azam

GMB National Secretary

GMB**U N I O N**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY CLAIM SURVEY (2021/22)

GMB will be meeting shortly to agree the Local Government Pay Claim for 2021/22 across England, Wales & Northern Ireland. The pay claim will then be submitted to the employers in the next few months and discussions will start on your pay.

GMB prides itself on ensuring that all members have a say on their pay. So ahead of the pay discussions we are stepping up GMB's Pay Justice Campaign. GMB is clear we need real term pay increases to remedy the last decade of pay cuts.

GMB will be campaigning for a pay deal that recognises the immense contribution our members make each day across Local Government, and this has never been more pressing than since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic.

You will be seeing more from GMB's 'Go Public' Campaign that includes campaigning for public services to be fully funded, pay justice & recognition of the contribution you make every day. This is your opportunity to have your say on your pay. Please complete the GMB survey and return it to us as soon as possible.

Remember union strength is in its numbers so the more people who join GMB, the more power we have to challenge employers and make a real difference for you in your work.

This survey will be online until 27th November 2020.

All survey responses will be kept strictly confidential and once the responses are collated, the GMB pay submission will be agreed by the trade union staff side and a copy will be made available to you.

Pay Consultation Survey 2021-22

GMB**U N I O N****GMB****U N I O N**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS CONSULTATION SURVEY

This has been a difficult year for workers across local government. After a decade of funding and pay cuts, you and your colleagues across local councils, schools and essential services are fighting the crisis of a generation as key workers protecting the public from Covid-19.

You have more responsibility and stress than ever before, but your pay continues to stagnate. GMB is determined to do something about that.

We are now entering into talks to make a collective pay claim for 2021-22 for all members in local government, and to do that, we need to hear from you:

COMPLETE THE SURVEY!



gmb.org.uk/LGPay21

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY
ON YOUR
PAY**

JOIN GMB TODAY!



gmb.org.uk/join

Survey closes: Friday 27th November, 2020

JOIN GMB'S PAY JUSTICE CAMPAIGN!

Members Raffle

GMB

U N I O N

Due to Coronavirus preventing us from putting on any trips this year, the branch are holding a weekly raffle for our members

There is no need for you to do anything as winners will be drawn at random each week using membership numbers



Weekly Member Raffle!



Various shopping vouchers as prizes to be spent in store or online

Winners will be drawn at random from membership number. Members will be contacted and prizes posted out



Please note we are unable to publish winners details due to GDPR but if members want to email a photo of themselves with the prize then we will add this to our website/Facebook page

Social Events 2020

GMB

UNION

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



Due to the un-certainty of the recent outbreaks 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



Looking After Your Mental Health

GMB

UNION

During the ongoing restrictions, Members may find that they are struggling with being at home or being unable to see friends or family

There are plenty of organisations out there to help support Members with their Mental Health



Samaritans

116 123



Mind | Infoline

0300 123 3393



HOPELINE UK (under-35s)

0800 068 4141



Bereavement Support

0300 303 4434



Crisis Support

Text 'FRONTLINE' to 85258



CALM

0800 58 58 58



Parenting Helpline

0808 800 2222



Relationship Counselling

0300 0030396



Domestic Violence Helpline

0808 2000 247

Looking After Your Mental Health

GMB

UNION



Anxiety UK

03444 775 774



OCD Action

0845 390 6232



Panic Attacks

0844 967 4848

Addiction Helplines



National Gambling Helpline

0808 8020 133



Action on Addiction

Action on Addiction

0300 330 0659



NHS/Drinkline National

0300 123 1110

GMB are always there for our members who are going through tough times so please make sure you do not suffer in silence

There is always someone out there to help support everyone

IT'S OKAY TO
NOT BE OKAY

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 [National Express](#) 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 [Alton Towers](#) 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 Rabbit™ Hippy Hop' ride



Up to 48% off at LEGOLAND Windsor

We are proud to partner with [LEGOLAND Windsor](#) 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 [Warwick Castle](#) 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 [Shrek's Adventure](#) 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!



Discount at Haven Holidays

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 [LEGOLAND Discovery Centre](#) 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 [Privilege Purchase Club](#) 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.

Benefits & Services

GMB

U N I O N



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 £50
- 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.



Proven Lost Luggage Protection

TRACE ME Lost Luggage Protection Discount

We are proud to partner with [TRACE ME Luggage Tracker](#) 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

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 benefit 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

Social Media

GMB
UNION

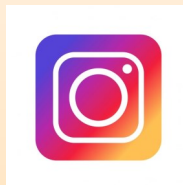
**Please follow the GMB
Durham Local Authority
Branch on Social Media**



@durhamgmb



@GMBDurham

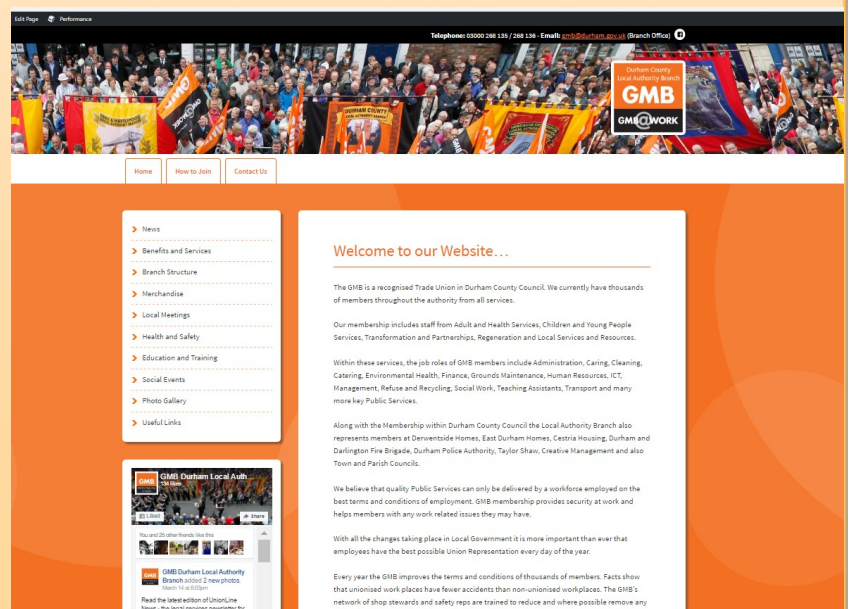


@durhamgmb



**Or visit our branch
website**

www.durhamgmb.info



Keeping In Touch/Section 188's

GMB

UNION

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

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



Section 188 Redundancy Notices and Restructures



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

GMB

U N I O N



DURHAM LOCAL AUTHORITY GMB BRANCH 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

UNIONLINE
YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM
0300 333 0303
www.unionline.co.uk



JOIN NOW

From now the GMB will not provide representation or support that you have membership.

GMB Contribution Rates

GMB

U N I O N

The monthly subscription rates for being a member of have increased
as of 1st October 2020

Membership entitles member to all benefits and services that the
union provides

New rates are below



GMB CONTRIBUTION RATES EFFECTIVE 1ST OCTOBER 2020

The CEC has agreed, under rule 10(6), an increase to the
following contribution rates:

GMB Grade 1

An increase of 10p to £3.35 per week

(£13.40 four weekly)

(£14.57 per month)

GMB Grade 2

An increase of 5p to £1.93 per week

(£7.72 four weekly)

(£8.40 per month)


Application Form (Direct Debit)

GMB
UNION

Join 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 you can also join instantly.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

SIGN WHERE YOU SEE THE 

TELL US ABOUT YOU. This will help us do the best possible job for you.

Forename

Surname

Title

Mr Mrs Miss M Ms

Date of Birth

Home address

Postcode

Work address

Postcode

Home phone number

Email address

Job title

Mobile number

Employer

Hours a week

THE IMPORTANT BITS. Please authorise the Direct Debit.



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send back to FREEPOST GMB

Name & full postal address of Bank/Building Society

To the Manager of

Address

Bank/Building Society

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Account number

Sort code



Service User Number

Reference (FOR GMB USE ONLY)

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society. Please pay GMB 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 GMB & if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

Bank/Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

PAYMENT DATE. Please select a payment date.

If you are paid monthly ☐ 1st ☐ 8th ☐ 15th ☐ 22nd ☐ Last day of the month* OR if you are paid 4 weekly ☐ 1st Friday ☐ 2nd Friday ☐ 3rd Friday ☐ 4th Friday
* or next working day

STAYING IN TOUCH. We want to make it as easy as possible to talk to each other.

GMB contacts members by email, phone and SMS about issues related to membership, membership services and campaigns.

Tick if you DO NOT wish to be contacted by: ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ SMS

GMB has a political fund to pay for political campaigning, which you can opt-in to for 1p a week. In the past, the fund has helped win rights such as the minimum wage and maternity leave. There will be no detriment to you if you do not opt-in.

Do you want to opt-in to the political fund? ☐ YES ☐ NO

AND JOIN. I agree to abide by GMB rules.

Signed

Date

Welcome to the GMB Union family!

To read the GMB rulebook please visit www.gmb.org.uk/rules For our privacy policy go to www.gmb.org.uk/your-privacy
You can change your contact preferences at any time by logging into your MyGMB area at www.gmb.org.uk/mygmb

FOR GMB
USE ONLY

Section

Branch

Membership

Join

Application Form (Check Off)

GMB**U N I O N**

Join  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 you can also join instantly.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

SIGN WHERE YOU SEE THE 

TELL US ABOUT YOU. This will help us do the best possible job for you.

Forename <input type="text"/>		Home address <input type="text"/>	Work address <input type="text"/>
Surname <input type="text"/>			
Title Ms Miss Mr Mx Mr	Date of Birth <input type="text"/>	Postcode <input type="text"/>	Postcode <input type="text"/>
Home phone number <input type="text"/>		Email address <input type="text"/>	Job title <input type="text"/>
Mobile number <input type="text"/>		Employer <input type="text"/>	Hours a week <input type="text"/>

THE IMPORTANT BITS. Please authorise us to take your fees from your wages.

Section 68, Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidated) Act 1992 as amended

I authorise my employer to deduct from my pay each week/month the sum of

£ or other amounts as may be fixed by GMB from time to time.

Pay number

- 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.

Signature(s)



Date

STAYING IN TOUCH. We want to make it as easy as possible to talk to each other.

GMB contacts members by email, phone and SMS about issues related to membership, membership services and campaigns.

Tick if you DO NOT wish to be contacted by: ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ SMS

GMB has a political fund to pay for political campaigning, which you can opt-in to for 1p a week. In the past, the fund has helped win rights such as the minimum wage and maternity leave. There will be no detriment to you if you do not opt-in.

Do you want to opt-in to the political fund? ☐ YES ☐ NO

AND JOIN. I agree to abide by GMB rules.

Signed 

Date

To read the GMB rulebook please visit www.gmb.org.uk/rules For our privacy policy go to www.gmb.org.uk/your-privacy

You can change your contact preferences at any time by logging into your MyGMB area at www.gmb.org.uk/mygmb

Welcome to the GMB Union family!

FOR GMB
USE ONLY

Branch

Branch number

Membership number

Join date