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Developments on NJC pay and GMB Bulletin

This bulletin is to update you on recent developments on NJC pay and to alert you to a bulletin circulated by the GMB.

As you will know, 64% of members voted to reject the LGA's two-year pay offer. At its meeting on 23 February, the NJC Committee decided that we should approach the LGA to explore the possibility of a single-year deal, but with certainty about the timetable for completion of the review of term-time working and the pay spine. Having consulted GMB and Unite, who both agreed to UNISON's proposal to approach the LGA on this basis, the proposal was put to the employers. They are meeting on 1 April to consider our proposal.

Since then, GMB members have voted by 9-1 to accept the two-year offer. Unite have rejected it by 87% and have decided that they will consider targeted selective action alongside the other unions. GMB have made it clear that, in the light of their consultation results, they are not prepared to take industrial action. The NJC Committee has submitted a request to the Industrial Action Committee for a ballot for all-out strike action which will be considered after the LGA meets on 1 April.

The NJC Committee held a further meeting on 18 March to take stock of the situation and re-affirmed the proposal to pursue a one-year deal with the employers. Disappointment was expressed at the GMB's acceptance of the offer.

The Joint Trade Union Side Executive met after the 18 March NJC Committee. Unite and UNISON sought support from the GMB to pursue our proposal with the LGA - which GMB initially agreed to - of a one-year deal with agreed completion dates for the review of term-time working and the pay spine. Rather than act in a spirit of unity, GMB has instead sent out the attached bulletin, which talks about UNISON's low turnout and attempts to construe ourselves and Unite as responsible for disunity on the Trade Union Side. This is unhelpful in the run-up to the LGA's meeting on 1 April.

We are working with Unite to pursue our proposal with members of the Employers' Side and will keep you updated about any developments.