

Manchester University Healthcare Branch



Newsletter – Spring 2021

Branch HCA Campaign – Update

Last week, UNISON and a group of our frontline Band 2 HCA members met with MFT to discuss how we can progress the re-banding of Band 2 HCAs that have been undertaking duties above and beyond their pay grade.

UNISON has been campaigning around this issue for the best part of two years, and although the progress has been frustrating, we are pleased to report that last week's meeting was constructive. The Trust were keen to emphasise how highly they regard and value the work of HCAs, NAs and MSWs. They recognise that many of you have been working above and beyond your pay grade and they confirmed their commitment to increase the number of Band 3s.

This is a positive step and we will be meeting with the Trust regularly to deliver on this commitment and to ensure you are fairly rewarded and recognised for undertaking duties above your band. The Trust have indicated that they would like to conclude this work by the end of September 2021 and UNISON will work hard to ensure a fair and equitable process is in place to support this transition as soon as possible.

Hundreds of staff across the Trust are impacted by this issue and we will continue to inform, consult and engage with members as discussions progress. UNISON will provide regular updates and we will arrange members' meetings to consult with members on key decisions as negotiations progress.

We are only in this position now because members have come together to raise this issue and challenge their banding via our Fair Pay for HCA Campaign and by submitting a collective grievance. We must stay united and organised to make sure that MFT deliver on their commitment - this means members need to continue to support the campaign.

Please circulate this update to Band 2 colleagues and ensure everyone is receiving updates from your UNISON Branch. If they're not a member of UNISON already, they can join online – [join.unison.org.uk](https://www.unison.org.uk) to help support the campaign and to ensure they are consulted on developments and any potential offer.



Unison's NEC (National Executive Council) elections are underway. The NEC is elected by YOU the members to speak on YOUR behalf. This is your opportunity to help shape the direction of the UK's biggest union. It only takes a few minutes, so please vote in our NEC elections.

This year's key dates are:

4 May – voting begins as voting papers are sent to members

13 May – the voting helpline for members opens

20 May – the voting helpline closes

27 May – voting ends

Voting Process

You must have been a UNISON member on 4 February 2021 to be eligible to vote in these elections.

Ballot papers will be sent to your home address. You will be provided with a pre-paid envelope for the return of the ballot paper to the Independent Scrutineer. All voting will be by post.

If you have not received your ballot paper by 13 May 2021, then you should contact the ballot helpline 0800 0 857 857

If you require your materials in a special format e.g. in large print, then you should make your request to the ballot helpline 0800 0 857 857

The ballot helpline is open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday. Members with hearing difficulties can use textphone 0800 0 967 968. You should try and have your membership number to hand when telephoning. The latest point at which members can request a ballot paper is 12 noon on 20 May 2021.

If you require any further information please visit <https://www.unison.org.uk/about/our-organisation/lay-structure-democracy-and-elections/current-elections/national-executive-council-elections-2021/>

Tel: 0161 291 5212

Website: www.unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk

UNISON's NHS Fair Pay Campaign



On the 1st April this year, you and your colleagues in the NHS were due a pay rise, but the Government has dithered and delayed. Despite their claps, they believe that NHS workers deserve no more than a derisory 1%.

On Thursday 13 May at 6PM, UNISON North West are holding a virtual rally to launch our campaign for a fair NHS pay rise.

We need to come together to update you on the discussions between unions, employers and the Pay Review Body about your pay in the NHS, and to discuss the next steps in our campaign. To attend, please register in advance by visiting unisonnw.org/nhspayrally. The event will also be streamed live on the UNISON North West Facebook page.

Our panel of speakers includes: Navendu Mishra - MP for Stockport and proposer of the parliamentary debate on NHS Pay; Helga Pile- UNISON's Deputy Head of Health; Michelle England- UNISON's NW Health Chair and Su Edwards, an ICU Nurse and UNISON Branch Secretary in Liverpool.

The NHS pay review body will make a pay offer to unions in June. Following this UNISON will consult with members as to whether the offer is acceptable, and what you are willing to do to campaign for a fair deal if you believe it is not.

Whilst we await the pay review body's recommendation, it's more important than ever that we keep the pressure on decision makers to call on the Government to reward NHS staff properly for the sacrifices they have made to support the UK through the pandemic, and that's why we are holding this rally now.

We know that the public support a fair pay rise for NHS workers.

We look forward to seeing you there on the 13th and to building a strong campaign for a decent, overdue pay rise for the NHS staff that have seen us through this crisis.

Tel: 0161 291 5212

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Meet our **TEAM**

During March we held our AGM's virtually. This was a new way of holding our Annual General Meetings but with Covid restrictions this was the safest way to conduct our business. Thank you for all those members who joined us online. Hopefully we will be able to hold our 2022 AGM's in person!

Each year your Unison Branch opens an elections period inviting any member to take up one of the Branch Officer roles. The AGM's marked the close of the nomination period and the following officers were elected:

Branch Secretary – Wendy Guest

Wendy is a clinical trials assistant based at Wythenshawe Hospital

Assistant Branch Secretary, Welfare Officer and Unison Site Lead for Central sites – Val Donegan

Val works in the Adult Acute Pain Team based at MRI

Branch Chair – Stewart Bowcock

Stewart is a medical laboratory assistant based at MRI

Vice Chair and Labour Link Officer – Gary Whyatt

Gary works for Sodexo at Wythenshawe Hospital

Treasurer – Claire Heywood

Claire works as an assistant nurse practitioner based at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

Health and Safety Officer and Sodexo Convenor – Peter Adeboye

Peter works in Sodexo based at MRI

Equality Officer – June Burnett

June is a HCA based at MRI

Joint Welfare Officer and Unison Site Lead for WTWA - Kate Sobczak

Kate is based at Wythenshawe Hospital

Joint Welfare Officer – Peter Goodier

Peter is based at the staff side office at MRI

Joint Education Officer – Julie Robinson

Julie is based at the Dental Hospital

Joint Education Officer – Louise Boxall

Louise is one of nurses based at MRI

International Officer – Brenda Platt

Brenda is a HCA based at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

Branch Environmental Officer – Matthew Hampson

Matthew is a staff nurse in Haematology at MRI

Branch Retired Members Officers – Steve Fullaway, Dave O Hara, Chrissie Bassue

If you wish to contact any of our Branch Officers, please contact the Branch Office on 0161 291 5212 in the first instance

We can help

Get in touch with the Branch Office or your local steward if you have any concerns at work

Keep us updated

Don't forget to update your contact details if you change address at work or home by contacting the Branch Office or calling UNISON Direct on 0800 0 857 857

Tel: 0161 291 5212

Website: www.unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk



GET INVOLVED!

Your Branch Needs YOU!!!

Following this year's Branch Officer elections, there are still a number of vacant roles in our Branch. These are:

- Lifelong Learning Co-Ordinator
- Communications Officer
- Membership Secretary
- Young members Officer
- Unison Site Lead for North (from July 2021)

Our activist roles are vital to us, and UNISON will provide you with all the training you need. In most workplaces you have the right to paid time off for this training. UNISON reps receive complete support from the union, and there is even a dedicated online space called the Organising Space.

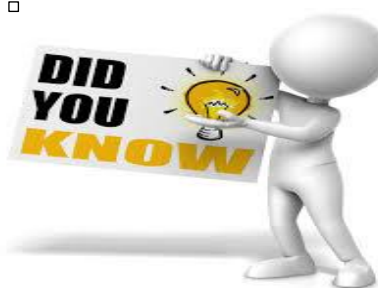
If you'd like to become more active in your Branch or simply want to find out a bit more about these roles, please contact us and we will be happy to chat with you.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BRANCH SECRETARY

Unison is holding a recruitment period between 10th – 23rd May 2021 where we will be encouraging each of our members to sign up work colleagues who are not already in Unison.

Your Branch will be offering incentives for those members who encourage others to join UNISON. Further details will be sent shortly so keep your eye out for newsletters, emails and articles on our webpage!

UNISON
WITH YOU
EVERY STEP
OF THE WAY



Your Unison Branch has its own dedicated webpage where you can find out all the latest news from Unison. You can also contact us via the webpage too if you have a question or need help with a workplace issue.

Check us out at:

www.unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk

Tel: 0161 291 5212

Website: www.unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk