



### ***A Message from your Chair***

Firstly can I wish you well. I would like to say a massive thank you to all of our members for your support and help during the COVID-19 pandemic. The workforce has been fantastic during the most difficult times we as a workforce will ever face. You have stepped up to the plate, volunteering to help your colleagues and our communities. Many of you have joined our successful Track, Trace, Protect team, helping the Council and Welsh Government keep us and our families safe from COVID-19. Together we have shown that we can achieve positive outcomes in working in partnership on behalf of UNISON and the Council, and your union will always look to support you, our membership, in difficult times.

I would like to pay tributes to all staff fighting COVID-19 like myself who unfortunately had the virus. I was one of the lucky ones who survived with the support of the fantastic NHS; without them I believe I would not be alive today. We should remember colleagues who sadly passed away from this deadly virus. God Bless them and their families.

I would like to praise the Local Authority for their support to all our workforce during the pandemic. As we start to enter the new normal, UNISON will be at the forefront supporting you when you start returning to our workplaces. If you have any worries or concerns, please contact the office for support and advice.

We are still facing uncertain times in 2021, however we are stronger together, working as a team. Our priorities are to campaign to keep our services public, bring services back in-house, protect our terms and conditions, and to continue supporting our valued members. A further challenge in the coming months is the uncertainty of the impact of Brexit alongside a Tory Government. Fortunately we still have a Labour-controlled Welsh Government following the 6<sup>th</sup> May elections, as well as a Labour-led Council, which will help us in maintaining our jobs.

Our Branch Officers are working in partnership with elected members, officers, and HR to resolve any concerns. We recognise that our workforce has diminished over the last few years with letting experienced staff members leave on ER/VR, which is now showing a strain on people left in the offices who have to potentially pick up the work. As our number one reason to be off work and on sickness is mental health, we have recently signed up for the Time to Change campaign to support staff with their mental health and wellbeing to remain healthy whilst in work.

Soon we are going to be seeking your views and opinions on NJC Pay claim 2021 when the employer's side has come back with an offer. Once we receive more information we will be consulting with our membership. You have to be a member to have your say in the consultation. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a member of UNISON, please pass them on to our office or website.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in your fantastic UNISON branch, please contact our office. Again can I personally thank you for your membership. I look forward to seeing you all soon, hopefully face to face, in the near future.

In Solidarity.

Stay Safe,

Mark Fisher  
Branch Chair

# Save our Leisure Services



**SIGN THE PETITION**

[nptunison.org.uk](http://nptunison.org.uk)    [chnng.it/GvqQFxFYRJs](http://chnng.it/GvqQFxFYRJs)

UNISON NPT branch is calling on the Council to take direct control of leisure services and bring them back to our communities. As part of the campaign, we have launched an online petition which you can sign by following this link: <http://chnng.it/jjxzgxM>

Help save our leisure services and ensure our communities have the best possible services as we come out of lockdown!



Congratulations to UNISON members Andrew Thomas, Director of Education, and Karen Jones, Chief Executive of NPTCBC in their new roles! We look forward to continuing our positive working relationships with you.

We are extremely pleased that Welsh Labour won 30 out of 60 seats in the Senedd elections earlier this month, returning a Labour-led Welsh Government for the next 5 years!



On 28<sup>th</sup> April, UNISON observed a minute silence to respect International Workers Memorial Day and to remember those who lost their lives at work or from work-related injuries or diseases.

Our branch health and safety officer, Leigh Batchelor, marked the day with a message for our members. Watch it again [here](#).

# Fair pay

for council and school workers

## NJC Pay Claim Update

We still have not received a pay offer from the employers' side. They will be meeting soon to discuss our claim of 10% pay rise for all NJC employees.

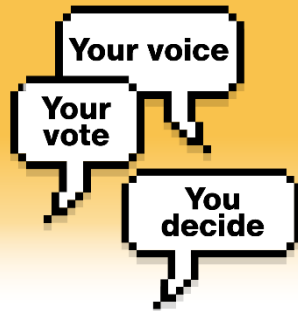
To find out more, click [here](#)



UNISON successfully forced the government to withdraw its unjustified exit payment cap and associated changes to exit payments is to be welcome. The proposal to cap public sector exit payments to £95,000 had threatened to blight the retirement of millions of workers. Find more pensions information [here](#).

# National Executive Council Elections 2021

► Find out more at [unison.org.uk/nec2021](http://unison.org.uk/nec2021)



The ballot for members to elect UNISON's new National Executive Council is now open! NPT branch officers have nominated the below candidates as we believe they are best placed to represent our membership within Neath Port Talbot Branch. However the ballot is your chance to have your say in who represents you, so we encourage you to use your voice and vote for your preferred candidates. Voting closes on 27th May 2021.

Cymru/Wales Regional Male Seat <b>Mark Fisher</b>	Cymru/Wales Regional Female Seat <b>Lianne Dallimore</b>
Cymru/Wales Reserve Seat <b>Sian Stockham</b>	Black Members Female Seat <b>Nimisha Trivedi and Elizabeth Cameron</b>
Black Members Male Seat <b>Hugo Pierre</b>	Black Members Low Paid Reserved Seat <b>No nomination made</b>
Young Members Female seat <b>Isla Watson</b>	Young Members General Seat <b>Jess McGuire</b>
National LG Female Seat <b>Emma Garson and Sarah Feeney</b>	National LG Male Seat <b>Sean Fox</b>
National LG General Seat <b>Diana Leach</b>	Disabled Members Female Seat <b>Neelo Farr</b>
Disabled Members General Seat <b>Angela Hamilton</b>	Health General Seat <b>No nomination made</b>
Health Female Seat <b>No nomination made</b>	Health Male Seat <b>No nomination made</b>
Community General Seat <b>No nomination made</b>	Community Female Seat <b>No nomination made</b>

### Important!

If you have not received your voting pack by 13 May 2021, please contact the ballot helpline on 0800 0 857 857. Lines are open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday. Members with hearing difficulties can use textphone 0800 0 967 968. The latest point at which members can request a ballot paper is **12 noon on 20 May 2021**.

We welcome our newly elected regional convenor team, which consists of:

- Dave Rees, Regional Convenor
- Jane Gebbie, Deputy Convenor
- Jan Tomlinson, Assistant Convenor
- John Hughes, Regional Treasurer

Congratulations to our branch secretary, Jane Gebbie, on being elected into this new role!

### POLITE REMINDER

Staff who have signed up to be a Designated First Aider must claim the payment of £300, as it is not paid automatically upon qualification. For further information, please contact the branch office.



Being a member of UNISON gives you a huge range of benefits, from legal and welfare services to financial help for education and training. Members also get discounts on a range of financial services plus special payments on death, accident or fatal accident. [Click here to find out more!](#)

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

At UNISON, we know how important mental health and wellbeing are in our everyday lives, especially with the impact of COVID-19. We believe mental health is a trade union issue, and that no one should suffer in silence.

There are various resources available to you which can be found by using the below links. You can also contact the branch office for more information ..

- **Wellbeing Through Work**  
<http://www.wellbeingthroughwork.org.uk/>  
Courses offered by Wellbeing Through Work can be found here:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/wellbeing-through-works-iws-service-13974565968>
- NHS Five Ways to Wellbeing  
<https://bcuhb.nhs.wales/health-advice/five-ways-to-wellbeing/>
- NHS ACTivate Your Life  
<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/activate-your-life/>
- NHS Silvercloud  
<https://nhs.wales.silvercloudhealth.com/onboard/nhs.wales/programs/>
- Mind Cymru  
<https://www.mind.org.uk/about-us/mind-cymru/>
- Live Fear Free  
<https://gov.wales/live-fear-free>
- Samaritans  
<https://www.samaritans.org/>
- C.A.L.L Helpline  
<https://www.callhelpline.org.uk/>

Our branch works with a team of regional staff which consists of

- Local Organiser – Gemma Moroney
- Area Organiser – Lianne Owen
- Regional Organiser – Joe Donnelly

We are pleased to welcome Lianne back to the branch after previously working with us as our local organiser.

“Hi, my name is Lianne Owen and I am a UNISON Area Organiser. I have recently transferred back to work with your fantastic NPT UNISON Branch. I previously worked with your branch for a number of years in a different capacity where I may have met you in events, meetings, or even on the UNISON trips. I am really excited to be back working with such a hard working branch and look forward to being part of your campaigns and initiatives.

Take care and stay safe,

Lianne”



UNISON Cymru Wales Learning has many free online learning and development opportunities on offer to our members, ranging from webinars to e-learning and access to learning grants to support learning and development. [Click here to find out more!](#)



Due to the coronavirus restrictions, we were unable to hold our annual children's Christmas event in 2020, so we decided to run our first ever branch Christmas colouring competition for members' children and grandchildren. We were extremely pleased with the lovely artwork we received from the children and teenagers. Our lucky winners received one of 3 gift vouchers for each age category. Here is Jake enjoying his winnings!

Thanks to Jake's mum for letting us use this lovely photo.

### EU Citizen Settled Status Scheme Deadline!

Changes in the law mean that EU citizens (including EEA and Swiss citizens) living and working in the UK need to make sure they have applied for Settled Status before 30th June 2021. Millions have already applied and secured their status, however UNISON wants to ensure that all members who are EU citizens are aware of the deadline.

Securing settled status is very important, as not applying by the deadline means an individual might lose the legal right to be in the UK. If you or someone you know are affected by these changes, it is very important to ensure you/they have applied by 30th June. If an individual's legal right to be in the UK depends on an EU citizen, even if they aren't an EU citizen themselves, they also need to apply for the Settled Status scheme.

UNISON offers free immigration telephone advice to members through the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI). If you would like to access this, please call UNISON Direct at 0800 0 857 857.

- To apply for the Settled Status scheme, visit <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizensfamilies/applying-for-settled-status>
- Please also follow the below link for further guidance: [https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2019/11/25896\\_settledstatus.pdf](https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2019/11/25896_settledstatus.pdf)

If you have any queries regarding this email, please do not hesitate to contact the branch office.

Have your details changed recently? If so, please complete and return the below form to [unison@npt.gov.uk](mailto:unison@npt.gov.uk)

Alternatively, you can manage your information by logging into [MyUNISON](#) (You will need to register first)

1. Membership number:

.....

2. Surname:

.....

3. Forename(s):

.....

4. Address:

.....

.....

5. Postcode :

.....

6. Previous surname (if applicable):

.....

7. Previous address (if applicable):

.....

.....

8. Personal contact number:

.....

9. Personal email address:

.....

10. Job title:

.....

11. Work address/location:

.....

12. Employer:

.....

13. Work contact number:

.....

14. Work email address:

.....

Please indicate your preferred email address:

Personal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate if you would like to hear from UNISON on any of the following:

Email	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you to everyone who attended our very first virtual AGM! Our raffle winners were:

- £300 to Kevin Williams
- £200 to Neil Davies
- £100 to Julie Ridgway

Here are a few words from Darren Morgan, our newly-elected Sport and Social Secretary...

"Hi I'm Darren. I work for Celtic Leisure as the ICT Manager. I started working for NPTCBC in 2002 in Baglan IT before moving to Celtic Leisure in 2008. I joined became a steward to give our employees the voice they deserve. We've been through a lot of changes since I began and are going through a lot more now. UNISON has been amazing in keeping us informed, giving us advice and sharing their wide ranging knowledge. I like the fact that I'm getting updates and information first hand. Staff are very grateful to Unison for representing them and I'm so proud to be a part of it."



## Ever thought about becoming A UNISON STEWARD?

To find out more about using your skills to help and support your colleagues in the union, please contact us any time.

We are glad to see that coronavirus restrictions are gradually starting to relax in Wales, however COVID-19 still poses a risk to us and our communities. Please remember to follow the guidance issued by Welsh Government to keep protecting yourselves and your loved ones. Up to date guidance can be found at [gov.wales/coronavirus](https://gov.wales/coronavirus)

### **Hands - - Face - - Space**

If you have any concerns regarding your return to the workplace following homeworking, please contact Leigh Batchelor, Branch Health and Safety Officer, via the branch office.

## Branch Officers

The following officers were elected at our AGM in February. To get in touch with an officer, please contact the branch office.

### **Mark Fisher**

Branch Chair & Labour Link Officer

### **Jane Gebbie**

Branch Secretary & Membership Officer

### **Neelo Farr**

Branch Treasurer & Labour Link Officer

### **Sam Alkarnaz**

Assistant Secretary & Equalities Coordinator

### **Debbie John**

Education Coordinator & Lifelong Learning Coordinator

### **Hazel Dance**

Welfare Officer & Vice-Treasurer

### **Leigh Batchelor**

Health & Safety Officer

### **Lisa Walters**

Vice Chair & International Officer

### **Alison Lloyd**

Communications Officer

### **Richard Brace**

Vice Chair

### **Darren Morgan**

Sports & Social Secretary

### **David Coleman**

Environment Officer

### **Matthew Fury**

Communications Officer