



To: Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland
Kate Forbes MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance

c.c: Gail MacGregor, COSLA Resources Spokesperson
Simon Cameron, COSLA SJC Joint Secretary
Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Local Government

Date: 1st June 2022

Dear First Minister and Cabinet Secretary,

Local Government funding and SJC Pay 2022

We understand that COSLA Leaders wrote to you on 30th May 2022 requesting that an urgent meeting with you and ourselves is arranged to discuss the ongoing impact of the rising cost of living on the local government workforce and the urgent support required to ensure a revised and significantly improved pay offer is made.

We support this request and believe this should be organised as a matter of urgency.

We are now 2 months past the pay review date for SJC workers with no improvement to the derisory offer made, and rejected by us all, in March. With inflation now at a 40 year high, topping 11%, and fuel, food and electricity prices continuing to rise the longer this goes on the greater the impact on our members, the majority of whom are low paid and predominantly female.

You will be aware that we have now all served notice to local authorities across the country of our intention to conduct a statutory industrial action ballot of our members working in schools, early years, waste and recycling services. This follows consultative ballots of our memberships held earlier this year in which they voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action in pursuit of an improved pay offer.

Be in no doubt about the strength of feeling that exists amongst our membership and the consequences of these statutory ballots being successful – it would close schools across the country and see waste piling up on the streets.

We look forward to hearing from you at the earliest opportunity.

Regards,

Johanna Baxter
SJC Joint Secretary
UNISON

Wendy Dunsmore
SJC Joint Secretary
UNITE

Keir Greenaway
SJC Joint Secretary
GMB