



# UNISON

*the public service union*

## University of Leeds Branch Bulletin



### Our Response to HE Pay Dispute Outcome

It's safe to say our branch has been disappointed by the University's response to the petition from the three campus unions and signed by over 550 staff requesting a cash payment to thank staff for their contribution to our University becoming "The University of the Year 2017."

The 550 plus staff who signed the petition did so as an indication that they consider a one-off cash payment a more fitting and valued recognition of the years of hard work, professionalism and dedication needed to achieve this national award which is expected to generate a healthy increase in University income as well as bringing increased recognition of the value of studying at Leeds. The £500 per person across the board suggested by the unions would have matched the reward given to staff at Huddersfield University when they won the same accolade a few years ago.

The brief response to our request came in the form of an email from our University's Vice Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands which said that the "matter has been given further consideration" but that he "saw no reason to alter the position" confirmed to staff in his earlier email.

Obviously this is not the reply we, as a union, wanted, especially when it is remembered that over 80% of respondents expressed the desire to either receive a bonus payment, or to have the choice between payment and an extra day's leave, as a "thank you." Nevertheless, we have garnered a great deal of useful information from the survey and petition which will inform future work and campaigns run by the branch in an effort to improve the lot of members: such as, how many members struggle to take their full allocation of annual leave

each year, roughly 40%, (and if you do find yourself in this position, please contact the branch); associated problems such as heavy workloads, feeling pressurised or stressed by their workload; the impracticality of TOIL arrangements etc.

As a branch executive and in consultation with our sister campus unions, we shall be considering what response is fitting.

If you have any thoughts or ideas you wish to share on this, or indeed any other work-related matter, please email: [unison@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:unison@leeds.ac.uk)

In solidarity

Branch Executive.



### Get Help Staying Warm this Winter

With rising fuel costs and winter already underway, many members are worried about how they're going to pay this year's winter fuel bills.

'There for You', UNISON's own charity, has set up a limited fund to help UNISON members on a low income by way of a one-off payment of £50 per household.

To apply, download the forms from the UNISON website or simply contact your UNISON branch office.

Completed applications need to be sent to: There for You, UNISON Centre, 130 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AY, to be received by Friday, 17 February at the latest.

'There for You' also provides support in coping with personal problems at home. It provides a confidential service for members over the phone or in person if you are experiencing personal difficulties such as:

- being off work with a long-term illness;
- domestic violence or abuse;
- living on the breadline and needing to pay for a major bill or vital item;
- recovering from surgery;
- looking for advice in dealing with your debts.

### You're Not Alone

You never know when you might encounter a problem at work or at home, but you should know that you don't have to face it alone.

The union is here for its members, whether it's a problem at work, help with family problems, legal advice or careers and learning.

One of the most reassuring things about being a UNISON member is knowing that there is always someone to help you if you find yourself facing a problem.

Our trained branch representatives are there to help. They will give you advice, help you write letters, represent you if you need it and refer your case to the regional office to make sure you get the most appropriate help and advice.

We also help members by negotiating, making sure the University is not breaking the law on things like health and safety, equal pay, discrimination and employment rights.

In addition to the individual support we offer to members, your branch also negotiates with the University on issues like pay, holiday pay and other terms and conditions and on pension schemes on offer to employees. And we work with teams of legal experts to provide you with help when you need it most.

**You can contact your branch at [unison@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:unison@leeds.ac.uk) or telephone 0113 3435900.**

**For more information contact us on 020 7121 5620 or email [thereforyou@unison.co.uk](mailto:thereforyou@unison.co.uk) or contact your Branch.**