



GMB @ Durham County Council

**Welcome
to your
Autumn 2015
Newsletter!**

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GMB Members at Whitby



**GMB Members enjoying
Whitby Trip.**

**Any members with any
suggestion for next
years Summer trip
please contact the
Branch on 03000
268135 or e-mail
gmb@durham.gov.uk**

GMB @ Durham County Council

Great Day at Gala



Branch Banner Marching to Gala



Tim Roache Regional Secretary Yorkshire with Joy Thompson our Branch Secretary.

Below Northern Regional Secretary Billy Coates with Tim.

And Left Billy with our Branch President Jimmy Jamieson.





York Christmas Trip 2015

GMB Christmas Trip to York

On Saturday November 21st 2015

GMB members £5.00 Non Members £10

(Two Non Members per GMB member)

To book your seats contact GMB office on 03000 268135

Or e-mail gmb@durham.gov.uk

Bus Leaving County Hall at 8.00am returning from York 5pm

Quiz and Bingo en route



GMB @ Durham County Council

LOCAL GOVERNEMENT AND SCHOOL STAFF - NEW PAY CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

Following on from the agreement between GMB and the other local government unions to open the 2016/17 pay round as early as possible, the trade union side of the National Joint Council has agreed a joint claim which has been formally submitted to the national employers as follows -

1. Deletion of NJC and all local pay points which fall below the level of the UK Living Wage (and deletion of GLPC pay points below London Living Wage) and a flat rate increase of £1 per hour on all other pay points.
2. Retention and protection of Green Book Part 2 terms and conditions.
3. Fair treatment for school support staff through a joint review of term time working.

The first item is the headline pay demand and in effect it means 'pay the Living Wage or give a £1 an hour pay rise, whichever is greater'. This is consistent with our claim for last years' negotiations and since GMB began its Living Wage campaign in 2013 nearly half of all Councils now pay it. The official Living Wage is £7.85 an hour (£9.15 in London).

The second item is to establish a base line that makes clear our national agreement is not up for grabs. As well as the overwhelming majority of Councils, there are thousands of other employers like academy schools, charities, housing associations and contractors that use the Green Book - it is the essential set of terms and conditions for the whole of the local government sector./cont'd...

The third item is specific to school support staff whose term-time contractual arrangement has long been seen as a disadvantage compared to other groups - pay is reduced for term time workers on the grounds that they have longer holidays but on the other hand they have no choice over those holidays. It's high time this was sorted out properly and fairly.

In submitting our claim we are very aware that local authority budgets are tight and we hope that by initiating discussions early it will give all employers time to plan to meet our claim. I expect we will get a response next month and I will communicate this to you along with the next steps in our campaign.

Brian Strutton

Brian Strutton

National Secretary - Public Services Section

GMB @ Durham County Council

Section 188 and Restructures

With all the ongoing Section 188 notices and restructures

Please call the Branch office if you are affected and need representation

03000 268134/268135

E-mail gmb@durham.gov.uk

Branch Meeting

25th November

Free raffle

Mince Pies and Ginger Wine



Keep up-to-date with GMB

Please like the GMB Durham local Authority facebook page to keep up to date with Local and National activities.



You can also visit the branch website and Durham County Bulletin Board for all the latest information.

**CAST YOUR
VOTE**
for the new
Gen Sec and CEC



Durham County LA Branch wishes Sir Paul Kenny all the best in his retirement

GMB CEC & GEN SEC ELECTIONS 2015

Don't lose your chance to vote for GMB Central Executive Council and
GMB General Secretary & Treasurer

With this month's Northern Star magazine you will find your official voting pack containing all the information you need to help you decide who you want to represent you on the GMB Central Executive Council and to lead GMB as General Secretary & Treasurer.

If you can't find your ballot paper in this month's Northern Star magazine, contact your Regional Returning Officer, Susan Lemmon on 0191 233 3930 or susan.lemmon@gmb.org.uk

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Between GMB Congresses the Central Executive Council is the governing body of the union. The Central Executive Council is elected for a four year term of office.

GENERAL SECRETARY & TREASURER ELECTION

The General Secretary and Treasurer is elected for a five year term of office.

RETURNING YOUR VOTE

You can return your voting forms for both elections together in the same freepost envelope provided.

Make sure your vote is sent back to the Independent Scrutineers, Electoral Reform Service (ERS), by Wednesday 4 November 2015.

RESULTS

The result of the GMB Central Executive Council election will be reported to GMB Branches and the first meeting of the newly-elected Central Executive Council will take place on Tuesday 8 December 2015.

The result of the General Secretary & Treasurer election will be reported on Friday 6 November 2015.

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GMB oppose Redundancy capping

GMB Warns That Government Plans To Cap Public Sector Redundancy Will Hit Low And Average Paid Employees And Will Break The Public Sector Pension Agreement

The £95,000 limit is also intended to apply to pension payments so the cap could actually affect people earning less than £20,000 a year says GMB

Commenting on the new government consultation on capping redundancy pay-outs to public sector workers,

Brian Strutton, GMB National Secretary said "Whether by design or error, the government's proposals go far beyond capping pay-outs to the highest paid public servants when they are made redundant.

In fact, the £95,000 limit is also intended to apply to pension payments so the cap could actually affect people earning less than £20,000 a year.

It will also mean changing pension scheme rules to reduce people's benefits, despite Treasury assurances that this would not happen for at least the next 25 years.

I don't think the government realises quite how contentious this is going to be. GMB will oppose this ill-considered and unjustified attack on average and low paid front line public servants who lose their job through government budget cuts and no fault of their own."

Brian Strutton, GMB National Secretary

Oppose the Trade Union Bill

The Tories want to restrict our ability to protect our member's terms and conditions at work, limit our ability to strike and restrict our ability to campaign on the political issues which matter.

We need to stand together to stop this bill which represents an attack on both our human and democratic right to organise collectively.

Sign up today to join the campaign to fightback against this unfair, unnecessary and undemocratic law.

To sign up go to:

http://www.unionstogether.org.uk/anti_tu_bill

£20 OFF CAR INSURANCE

FOR GMB MEMBERS

**PLUS GMB
MEMBER
DISCOUNT
WITH LV=**

**£20
OFF CAR
INSURANCE**



Call today to get your discount
0800 756 8306 QUOTE
XCER

*To receive £20 off a new car insurance policy you must be a current GMB member and state discount code XCER when you call 0800 756 8306 (sorry, this offer is not available on our website). This offer is for your first year of cover only and is valid for quotes given until 31/12/2015. LV= reserve the right to change the terms and conditions and to withdraw the offer at any time. **This offer is in addition to the GMB member discount.** GMB acts as an Introducer Appointed Representative to the Liverpool Victoria group of companies for General Insurance.

LV=
LIVERPOOL VICTORIA

For TextDirect: first dial 18001. Lines are open Mon-Fri 8am-9pm,
Sat 8am-5pm, Sun 9am-5pm. Calls may be recorded.

GMB
GMB@WORK

21443275

GMB @ Durham County Council

With all the cuts facing Local Governments

Now is the time to Join GMB

Contact Branch office on 03000 268135 or e-mail gmb@durham.gov.uk

Also forms can be downloaded at www.gmb.org.uk/join

**And returned to GMB Office 4th Floor
County Hall Durham DH1 5UY**

Membership Details

Please contact the Branch office if you have moved house or changed your name it is important we have all your correct information 03000 268135 or e-mail gmb@durham.gov.uk