PAY RISE FOR NHS STAFF—Members vote to ACCEPT three year pay deal.

UNISON members working for the NHS in England have voted overwhelmingly to accept a three year pay deal and changes to the NHS pay structure negotiated by UNISON and the other 13 NHS unions. All 14 NHS unions have been consulting their members on pay and have collectively endorsed this deal which has been overwhelmingly supported by NHS staff. UNISON members voted yes by a large margin with approximately 84% voting to accept and 16% voting against. Over 83,500 members voted. UNISON led the negotiations and the Treasury agreed to find £4.2bn of new money to ensure that these pay increases do not come at the cost of jobs or patient care.

Lead negotiator and UNISON head of health Sara Gorton said the agreement “won’t solve all the NHS’s problems overnight, but it will go a long way towards easing the financial strain suffered by health staff and their families over many years. “The lifting of the damaging 1% cap on pay will come as a huge relief for all the employers who’ve struggled for so long to attract new recruits and hold onto experienced staff. “But this three-year pay deal must not be a one off. Health workers will want to know that ministers are committed to decent wage rises across the NHS for the long term, and that this isn’t just a “quick fix”. Staff should expect to see the pay rise in their July pay which will be backdated to April.

Pay Justice for ALL soft FM workers in Barts Health.

Thousands of NHS workers contracted out of the NHS are left out of the national NHS pay deal, leaving them £2000 a year worse off. Serco have insisted that they are not prepared to pay more than a 2% pay rise to some of its workers. Elior and Synergy Health also won’t implement the NHS pay award. The Trust has not responded to our Open Letter to the Trust Chair dated the 9th May, asking for the restoration of NHS pay for soft FM staff. For many years about 1800 soft FM workers in Barts health had maintained their NHS terms & conditions and had NHS pay awards applied. When Serco took over in November 2016 the trust broke the staffs link to NHS pay, a move we think is unacceptable. UNISON is campaigning with Unite to fight for NHS pay for all who work at Barts Health.
NHS TURNS 70

Birthdays are special. This year the NHS is 70 years old and we think that’s something worth celebrating. Join us on Thursday 5th July to celebrate the NHS turning 70 and UNISON turning 25.

- Royal London Hospital—Stepney Way entrance—11am-2pm
- St Barts Hospital– Ground floor foyer—11am-2pm
- Whipps Cross Hospital - Canteen - 11am-2pm
- Newham University Hospital –Zone 6 - 9am-2pm

A national demo to celebrate and defend the NHS will be held on 30 June 2018. The march will start at 1200 on Portland Place W1 and end with a rally on Whitehall.

UNISON TURNS 25

Not only will the Barts UNISON branches be celebrating the NHS turning 70, but also UNISON’s 25th anniversary. Whilst we don’t want to overshadow the NHS’ birthday, it’s important our members know of our longstanding and long term commitment to protecting and bettering workers rights, to safer working conditions and of course, to better pay. We must not forget the rights we currently benefit from as a result of our will to fight for what’s fair and just. Our union continues to grow strong.

We’ve overcome many obstacles and attacks through the journey and we imagine there’ll be many more to come. Remember the decision taken by the government to apply fees to employees to take their employers to Tribunal? In recent years, UNISON have had that decision overturned which was a remarkable achievement. Have you heard of the Trade Union Act? An act which was designed to break us, again, an obstacle overcome by standing united. 7 years of pay restraint with the 1% pay cap finally broken down through years of hard-work.

Here’s to another 25 years of UNISON.

Blue Chip

“Blue Chip” is an outfit that claims to be ‘a new breed of Trade Union’. However, it is not a recognised trade union in Barts Health. It cannot take part in collective bargaining, nor can it represent employees at formal meetings (such as grievance and disciplinary hearings). As an unrecognised organisation, Blue Chip can only sit at formal meetings in a supportive capacity (i.e. it cannot act on behalf of employees) and may attend collective meetings as an observer only. Buyer beware!