

# UNISON 2025 AGM NEWSLETTER

## FOYLE HEALTH BRANCH

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

**Wellbeing Night  
St Columb's House**

**Thursday 13th March 2025**

**6:30pm – 10pm**

**Refreshments will be available for  
the Wellbeing Evening**

**&**

**Afternoon Online AGM meeting at  
2pm**

Join using this code or  
scan QR code



Meeting ID: 811 1742 1766  
Passcode: 2025

### It's about You, Your Branch, Your Say and Your Vote

Our Branch AGM is the single most important meeting of the year. Every year UNISON requires its branch officers and stewards to stand for re-election. The AGM is your opportunity to have a say in how the branch is run and who will represent you in 2025

It is also a great opportunity to meet with other members and UNISON stewards and to find out how UNISON has been active on your behalf during the year. Some of this year's AGMs will take place online and in the workplace

If you would like to become more active in UNISON: Representing your colleagues or becoming involved in solidarity or welfare work, please contact your branch.

### Pay Campaign

UNISON along with other Health Unions have received formal commitment from the Minister in a Department of Health memorandum that pay parity in AFC pay bands will be maintained for full year 2024/2025.

Implementation of the Pay Review Body Pay award of 5.5% will now be prepared. The Minister has advised that he will immediately provide funding for the cost of 10 months and has plans to secure funding for the balance of 2 months in the January monitoring rounds.

In practical terms health workers can now expect at least 10 months' retrospective pay on their March 2025 pay dates.

UNISON NI Health Committee will remain engaged and focused early in the New Year on full delivery of the Minister's commitments.



**Not yet a member? JOIN UNISON TODAY!**  
**Call 02890270190 or go to [www.unison-ni.org.uk/join](http://www.unison-ni.org.uk/join)**



Our UNISON 'Free School Meals for All' campaign is a further important intervention aimed at reducing poverty for our members and their families.

We are increasingly concerned by the lack of visible progress on an Anti-Poverty Strategy. Despite the Executive having been restored in February, a draft Anti-Poverty Strategy has yet to be published, consulted upon and adopted.

UNISON has continued to work alongside our allies across civic society to press for an Anti-Poverty Strategy to be put in place without further delay, including through the launch of the report of the seminar held at Stormont in June 2023 on development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy that we reported on last year. UNISON was part of a delegation that gave evidence to the Committee for Communities at the NI Assembly in April regarding the urgent need for an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

As a result of our campaign, the Education Minister recently launched a consultation on options for free school meals. UNISON will be submitting a response to the consultation.

The consultation closes on 14th February.

**SKILL UP with UNISON College**

Check out the full list of over **500 UNISON College courses** at this URL: [bit.ly/2KzKJXA](https://bit.ly/2KzKJXA)

## Membership services

Members experiencing financial and emotional difficulties can contact UNISON Welfare (There for You), which provides confidential advice and support services for members and their dependants.

<https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/>

Receive free legal advice and support on non employment matters from Thompsons, our specialist employment solicitors

<https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/legal-services/>

Request free expert financial advice from Quilter Financial Advisers, UNISON's financial services partner

<https://benefits.unison.org.uk/home/money/lighthouse-financial-advice/>

AbbeyAutoline offers discount for UNISON members.

<https://www.abbeyautoline.co.uk/>

## BRANCH NEWS

### Agenda for Change

In the Western HSC Trust we achieved a successful outcome for domiciliary care workers and their long over due job evaluation outcome.

Around 600 domiciliary care workers were successful in being uplifted from Band 2 to Band 3 on the Agenda for Change pay scale with arrears backdated over four years. We continue to review the grading of jobs across a range of posts in the trust.

UNISON has continued to participate on a project oversight board on agency spend that has been established by the Department. Significant progress has been achieved in reducing reliance on off-dash contract agency and that is to be welcomed. However, the high level of vacancies across the workforce continues to sustain reliance on contract agency workers. We are determined to turn the situation around and to press for the growth of the direct workforce. Our regional lay bargaining teams throughout the Trust are focusing strongly on this key task. We remain vigilant on the issue of on-contract agency spend.

Tackling these issues remain a key priority for UNISON. Another key goal is to reinstate safe staffing levels based on a sustainable and stable permanent workforce. To date we have secured:

Preparation and completion of new procurement frameworks for the use of agency - nursing, medical and dental ; a continuing commitment by corporate health leaders to engage with trade unions in each organisation to achieve this aim.

### Branch Contacts

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