

# UNISON 2026 AGM NEWSLETTER

## FOYLE HEALTH BRANCH

### 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 2026**

**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 the branch**



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

**Thursday 5th March 2026**

**6:30pm – 10pm**

**Wellbeing Night**

**St Columb's House**

**Refreshments will be available for the**

**Wellbeing evening**

**&**

**Afternoon Online AGM meeting at 2pm**

**Zoom Link: <https://shorturl.at/Du3IA>**

**or scan the QR code to join the meeting.**



### AfC Pay Campaign 2024/25

UNISON has continued to lead the way across health unions in pressing for Agenda for Change pay uplifts in NI. Following the announcement of the Pay Review Body (PRB) recommendations for 2024/25 in July 2024, UNISON pursued their full implementation in NI against the context of a funding crisis across health and social care. In December 2024 we secured a commitment in relation to AfC pay in NI for 2024/25 to maintain pay parity with England, but with payment in two phases, reflecting the financial constraints on the health budget.

Following the PRB recommendations in May, the Health Minister stated that he had begun a process to secure the funding required to implement the 3.6% pay uplift by issuing a Ministerial direction that the pay uplift be approved without delay. It was made clear to the Minister that delays in securing funding for a pay uplift are unacceptable to our members, particularly considering that it took until March 2025 for the 2024/25 pay uplift to be put in place.

Following NHS workers in England receiving the recommended 3.6% pay uplift in August, we made clear that the link to pay parity was broken. Through continued negotiation with the Health Minister and Executive to maintain pay parity with England the Minister confirmed in November that the Department will proceed to put in place the consolidated 3.6% pay uplift and fully backdated to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. The Department has stated this will be paid in February 2026. However UNISON remains absolutely clear that much more needs done to tackle the problem of low pay.

UNISON will hold the Minister, Department and employers to account if they do not move forward to address the serious problems of low pay. UNISON is demanding that progress be made to implement the Real Living Wage and to ensure pay is prioritised in the 2026/2027 budget. The unacceptable cycle of delay in putting pay right for the workforce cannot be allowed to continue any longer.



**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. The Free School Meals Campaign has continued with the restoration of the Executive and Assembly. We are demanding universal free school meal provision for all children and young people. The campaign objectives are:

- to seek universal, nutritious, free schools meals for all pupils to both reduce poverty and improve public health,
- to safeguard and promote the vital work of our members within schools catering - school meals should be publicly provided,
- to build support for the implementation of a public health model across Government that is aimed at dealing with health and educational inequalities.

**SKILL UP with UNISON College**

Check out the full list of UNISON College courses at this URL:

<https://shorturl.at/KocGt>

## Membership services

there for you

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

THOMPSONS SOLICITORS

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

Quilter

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

AbbeyAutoline offers discount for UNISON members.

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

## Branch News

In the Western HSC Trust Foyle branch has recently launched a Pay Fair for Patient Care campaign, seeking to upgrade Health Care Assistants, this will now be rolled out across the rest of the trust, so HealthCare assistant's in this branch get ready...

Work is continuing to review the grading of jobs across a range of posts in the Trust. Success was also achieved to end 'clocking in and out' for all support services staff.

The branch has been active in meeting and supporting members at different events across our sites e.g. Pride, International Women's day, International Nurses day, NHS birthday etc. and promoted education opportunities such as K102.

Our members are always the priority to this branch and have supported members at many attendance meetings, grievance, disciplinaries and other meetings and raised many issues brought by our members.

**Safe staffing legislation:** UNISON continue to work alongside other health trade unions to progress the development of safe staffing legislation, further to the commitments made by the Minister for Health in the 2020 Framework Agreement that led to the suspension of our industrial action on pay parity and safe staffing issues. In October 2024, UNISON made a comprehensive response to a public consultation on proposals for the legislation.

**Mileage subsidy issues:** Following the mobilisation of the workforce at employer and community level, we managed to secure an enhanced subsidy for directly employed NHS staff. The issue of mileage subsidies continues to be on the agenda at NHS Staff Council.

## Branch Contacts

**Joint Branch Secretary**  
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