

UNISON 2026 AGM NEWSLETTER

HEALTH AGENCIES BRANCH

Health Agencies Branch AGM 2026

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. The AGMs will take place online and in workplaces.

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.



**NO LOW PAY IN NHS PAY
ONLY BETTER PAY WILL DO**

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 1st 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 are 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 delays seen in putting pay right for the workforce cannot be allowed to continue any longer.

AGM MEETING DATES 2026

**Wednesday 18th February,
Gransha Park House Boardroom
11am**

**Thursday 19th February
Boucher, Boardroom 11am**

**Thursday 19th February
Franklin Street, 2nd floor,
Room 2.1
2-4pm**

**Online Zoom AGM 19th @ 7pm
Joining details below or scan QR
code to join**

**Meeting ID: 825 6542 9834
Passcode: AGM2026**



Not yet a member? JOIN UNISON TODAY!

Call 02890270190 or go to 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.



Check out the full list of UNISON College courses here:

<https://shorturl.at/KocGt>

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

THOMPSONS 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

Over the past year, the branch has:

- Raised and resolved numerous health and safety issues;
- Attended health and safety and negotiating meetings with employers;
- Represented members at grievance and disciplinary hearings;
- Represented members interests at regional forums;
- Held physical and virtual members meetings
- Held numerous stalls to speak with members in workplaces
- Held events and attended rallies to highlight days of significance to our members such as Pride, International Women's Day, World Mental Health Day and Menopause Awareness Day and attended numerous anti racism rallies and held a members lunch in payroll.



Photos from our International women's day event held in Derry/Londonderry and the lunch held to thank our payroll members for continuing to work during the last strike.

Branch Contacts

Joint Branch Secretary David Cassidy
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Joint Branch Secretary Kirstein Arbuckle
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Branch Chair Lorraine James
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Regional Organiser
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