

3 October 2017

To:

The Editor, Brighouse Echo
The Editor, Halifax Courier
The Editor, Hebden Bridge Times and Todmorden News
The Editor, Huddersfield Daily Examiner

Dear Madam or Sir

For the last seven years, the government has frozen public servants' pay or imposed a settlement below the rate of inflation. As prices, rents and bills go up, this has led to real hardship for many.

The public sector union UNISON found that shocking numbers of healthcare staff were having to use food banks, payday lenders and pawnshops. They found that more than two thirds (67%) said they had either sought financial help or made major changes to their standards of living in the past 12 months.

A firefighter today is earning at least £2,000 less in real terms than they were in 2010. Midwives have seen their pay cut in real terms by £3,000. Meanwhile, the cost of living has been increasing.

A TUC post-election poll showed that 76% of all voters supported giving public sector workers the pay rise they deserve. The TUC is calling on the Government to:

- Scrap the artificial restrictions on public sector pay
- Make sure no public service workers are paid less than the Living Wage Foundation's living wage
- Find new money to fund a fair pay rise; not to add pressure to already overstretched public services
- Let employers, unions and pay review bodies negotiate the right pay deal for each sector
- Recognise the loss of pay over the last seven years.

The TUC is holding a rally: **Britain still needs a pay rise: Fair pay for public servants** on Tuesday 17 Oct 2017, 6.30 pm in Parliament Square London. Locally, Calderdale Trades Council wishes to work with public sector unions and the wider Trades Union movement to build the campaign to scrap the Government's iniquitous, unfair Public Sector Pay Cap.

Yours faithfully

Pete Keal
Secretary, Calderdale Trades Council