

Problems accessing your Local Government Pension?

For some time, Sandwell UNISON has been aware that members retiring are waiting unacceptably long times before receiving their local government pension from West Midlands Pension Fund. We have been made aware of some staff waiting 6 months before receiving their pension.

Sandwell UNISON has raised this through our regional structures, including to UNISON's representative on the West Midlands Pension Fund Board. We have also raised this with employers of the fund, who are also concerned, and requested Sandwell MBC and the trade unions raise their joint concerns.

The delays are due to the introduction of a new computer system not working. Despite the Fund continually saying things are improving, the evidence suggests not.

There are three options for anyone experiencing these unacceptable delays to pursue. They are placed on the Branch website at [Delays in Accessing your local government pension? – Sandwell General UNISON Branch \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](https://sandwellunison.co.uk/delays-in-accessing-your-local-government-pension/)

If you are experiencing this problem, please let us know by emailing sandwellunison@btconnect.com and we will do what we can.

UNISON Conference Calls for Insourcing Children's Trusts

At June's Local Government Conference, the West Midlands motion for bringing Children's Trusts back under Council control was unanimously passed.

Check out the speech from Sandwell delegate here [Sandwell at UNISON Conference – Sandwell General UNISON Branch \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](https://sandwellunison.co.uk/sandwell-at-unison-conference/)

It is now UNISON policy to campaign within the Labour Party for this to take place.

Extreme Weather Guidance Negotiated

This year is set to be the hottest ever recorded around the globe. Climate change is heating our planet and whilst UNISON campaigns for the world to act on dramatically reducing the emissions that causes our planet to heat up, Sandwell UNISON initiated and negotiated a guidance with Sandwell Council to help keep all employees safe during extreme weather events. See the guidance here [Extreme Weather Guidance – Sandwell General UNISON Branch \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](https://sandwellunison.co.uk/extreme-weather-guidance/)

Sandwell UNISON is seeking other employers adopt this guidance, including Sandwell Children's Trust and Sandwell Leisure Trust.

What is the NJC?

The NJC is the body where the trade unions meet with employer representatives to negotiate on pay, holiday entitlement, and sick pay (and other terms and conditions) for local government and school support staff.

The **NJC** is made up of **31 UNISON** representatives, **16 GMB** and **11 UNITE** which gives UNISON members the majority voice.

No other trade unions are recognised to negotiate with the employer on your pay rises. The NEU is **NOT** a recognised trade union for negotiating NJC pay. It has no votes nor voice on the NJC.

Vote YES to industrial action for better NJC pay