

thanks
for
n% nothing

UNISON
the public service union

University staff have been offered 0% for the toughest year of our working lives

**Vote
yes**



**to strike for the
pay we deserve**

unison.org.uk/thanksfornothing

Introduction

This information is about the higher education ballot for strike action on the final pay offer, including the 0% pay rise/pay freeze, that came into effect on 1 August 2020.

Branches have decided to ballot members working at 51 different university employers covered by national pay bargaining for the 2020/21 pay round. Ballots are being run at 42 universities in England, 1 in Northern Ireland and 8 in Scotland.

If your branch has decided to run a ballot please do everything you can to encourage all members to use their vote.

- tick a box
- in the envelope
- a short walk to the post box

"It only takes a few minutes to make sure your voice is heard!"

Timetables

The ballot timetables for each country are different. Please check and note which timetable applies to your branch.

	Opens	Closes	Ballot hotline dates
England	28 June	10 August	6 July to 12pm on 4 Aug
Scotland	2 August	27 August	9 August to 12pm on 20 August
Northern Ireland	28 June	13 September	6 July to 12pm on 7 September

Ballot hotline

Members can call the ballot hotline to request a replacement ballot paper if, for any reason, they haven't received one or if they have lost their paper.

The last date for new joiners to join and be able to request a ballot paper in an England ballot is 30 July; in Scotland it's 17 August; and in Northern Ireland it's 1 September... so keep recruiting!

Ballot website

You can find more information on our ballot hub webpage at www.unison.org.uk/thanksfornothing.

You'll find FAQs to help, graphics to download and resources for you to order so that you can build a successful campaign in your branch.

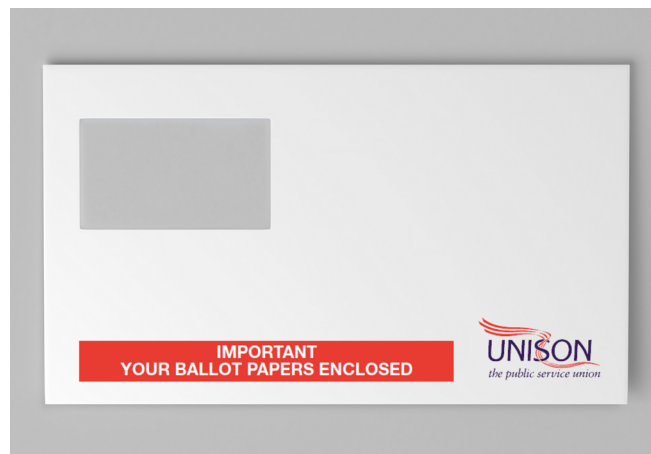
The list of the 51 universities where UNISON is balloting is also available on this webpage.

How the ballots will work

Only members working for the 51 employers where branches decided to ballot will be sent a ballot paper. Members working for student unions, private companies and other employers are not being balloted this time.

Members will be sent a personalised ballot pack to their home address. This envelope will contain:

- a ballot paper
- a letter explaining why we're asking members to vote for action
- a freepost return envelope.



Members need to simply complete the ballot form, put it in the envelope and post the envelope – no stamp needed. Remember that all forms need to be returned in good time before the ballot closes. There will be follow up emails to remind members to vote.

What you can do now

RECRUIT

Members who join by 30 July for English ballots, 17 August for Scottish ballots, and 1 September for Northern Irish ballot, will be able to vote.

INCREASING TURNOUT

As ever, it is vital that we get the highest possible turnout in this ballot. Please ask all of your branch reps to talk to members about pay. We know that during the pandemic that circumstances

have changed and that many members are working from home and, of course, social distancing still is in place everywhere. However, you can still phone members to ask if they've used their vote.

The following resources are available to help you build a campaign locally:

- The campaign webpage at unison.org.uk/thanksfornothing
- Posters – [download now from the UNISON Shop](#)
- Leaflets for England – [order now from the UNISON Shop](#)
- Stickers – [order now from the UNISON Shop](#)
- A PowerPoint presentation for members' meetings (available on the webpage from 22 June)
- [Social media, website and email graphics and a video](#)
- 8 point action plan to help us get out the vote (see below)

CALLING MEMBERS – RUNNING A 'PHONEBANK'

UNISON is providing a system so that your branch can run a local 'phonebank' enabling you to systematically call members and to log the calls that you have made. This facility is provided through WARMS and 'MCT' (member contact tool).

Running a WARMS-based phonebank will mean that you can keep a clear record as to who has been called and means that you will be operating safely within GDPR legislation.

Those branches in the ballot can access the phonebank which includes a script that must be followed and options for how to log the calls (e.g. member has voted, voicemail left etc.).

Any existing WARMS users within the branch will be able to access and log campaign contact via WARMS. To access the campaign an existing WARMS user needs to email s.loweth@unison.co.uk.

Up to two additional activists per branch, who wish to assist with calling members, will be granted MCT-lite access. (The Branch committee and branch secretary will need to give approval for the activist/s to be granted access and the system must be used in accordance with the MCT Lite User access agreement which will be sent to the new user.)

New users must take the following steps to access the WARMS phone-bank:

- 1) Complete the quick UNISON [GDPR enote course](#)
- 2) Take screen shot at the end of the course showing the score you got in the final quiz
- 3) Email the screen shot to mctlite@unison.co.uk
- 4) You will then be sent details of how to get started on calling members in MCT-Lite. This will include a short video to explain the system to you and a copy of the MCT-Lite agreement.

Setting up a phonebank is one of the best ways of systematically calling all members to maximise your branch's turnout in the ballot.

8-point action plan for getting out the vote

Please find below an eight point action plan. We hope that this will help your local campaign to run smoothly, so that you are able to engage as many members as possible and maximise your branch's turnout.

- (1) Keep membership records up to date. This is vital in case any members need a replacement ballot paper. This can be done by members online at [MyUNISON](#) or by your branch on WARMS.
- (2) Order and download [campaign posters, leaflets and stickers](#) from the UNISON Shop. Ask any reps working on campus to put them up so that colleagues working on site can find out about the ballot.
- (3) We know that many of you are working from home. Instead of walking around campus a couple of branch activists can call members instead. See the Phone Banking section above.
- (4) Instead of holding a meeting on campus you can arrange an online, virtual UNISON meeting. You can use the UNISON PowerPoint presentation that will be available from 22 June on the campaign webpage – unison.org.uk/thanksfornothing.
- (5) Prepare your social media accounts with the [campaign branding](#) – use the Twitter header and Facebook cover to brand up your branch social media accounts throughout the ballot period, and share the posts and video. Use the hashtag **#ThanksForNothing** so we can join together in a nationwide campaign.
- (6) Check the [frequently asked questions](#) on the campaign page. If you have another question please email education@unison.co.uk.
- (7) Now's a good time to recruit. Anyone who joins by 30 July in the English ballots, 17 August for the Scottish ballots and 1 September in the Northern Irish ballot will get the chance to have their say too. Even if you're working from home, you can talk to and email colleagues and let them know that they can easily [join online](#) or by calling 0800 171 2194.
- (8) Attend UNISON's HE pay webinar on Tuesday 22 June at 12.30pm. You can register by emailing education@unison.co.uk.