



# October 2024



# UNISON BOLTON HEALTH BRANCH NEWSLETTER



# 5.5%

## NHS Pay Award

In response to the Chancellor's announcement that the government will accept the pay review body recommendation of a 5.5% wage rise for NHS staff on Agenda for Change contracts in England for 2024/25, UNISON Bolton Health Branch expresses cautious optimism.

This government is thankfully taking a different approach than its predecessors. The NHS can only improve if it retains its current workforce and attracts new talent. Pay and investment in our workforce are essential for achieving this.

While this year's wage increase is welcome, it is over a quarter of a year late. NHS staff will appreciate not waiting any longer. An above-inflation rise is a step in the right direction, but health workers will compare this with agreements made for junior doctors.

**Additionally, Bolton FT has agreed that back pay can be paid in installments over three months to ensure those on universal credit are not penalized by a lump sum. Those facing this issue should speak to payroll and request that their back pay be spread out.**

This pay rise must not be a one-off; more is needed for the NHS to improve significantly. Every member of the NHS team plays a crucial role and must be fairly valued.



NHS VH  
NHS

# iFM

# Branch Steward Development Day

In early October, we held a Branch Steward Development Day that was invaluable for stewards, equipping them with essential skills to organise and represent workers effectively. Through interactive workshops and best practice discussions, stewards gained insights into workplace dynamics and collective bargaining. This training emphasised understanding member needs and fostering solidarity among workers. Ensuring stewards receive top-notch education is crucial, as it prepares them to tackle evolving challenges. With enhanced knowledge and confidence, stewards are better positioned to advocate for members' rights, ultimately strengthening the union's influence in the workplace.

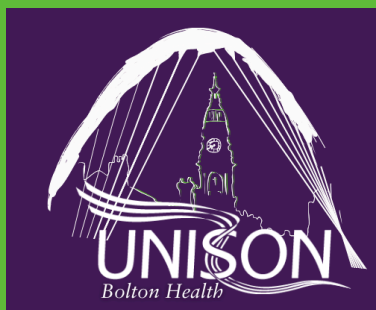


## Join Us

Join UNISON and help us fight for a better deal for NHS and allied workers.

You can either scan the QR code here to join UNISON online or go to [www.join.unison.org.uk](http://www.join.unison.org.uk)

Alternativley get in touch with us and we will send you a paper form.



# IFM Update

IFM has agreed to honour the NHS pay award of 5.5% backdated to April this year. Members will receive their pay rise, including backpay. However, if any members wish to have the backpay paid in instalments, they should contact their payroll department as soon as possible. Payroll can arrange for the backpay to be spread over a series of instalments, easing any financial pressure that might come with receiving it all at once. It's important for members to act promptly if they want to take advantage of this option.

IFM is still awaiting confirmation of the processing date for last year's payment for flowers. We understand the importance of this payment and are actively following up on the situation. We hope to have a date soon for when this payment will be implemented.

Meetings between IFM senior management and members are expected to take place soon. We are currently awaiting confirmation of the dates, which will be circulated in advance to ensure members have the opportunity to attend. These meetings will provide a platform for Unison members to raise any issues or concerns within their workplace directly with senior managers. We encourage all members to participate and use this opportunity to voice their concerns and improve working conditions.

## Band 2 Car Parking Deductions

UNISON, alongside our sister trade unions, has been vigorously demanding that back pay for car parking not be deducted from our lowest-paid workers following the recent 5.5% pay rise. We are pleased to confirm that the Trust has agreed not to impose deductions for backdated car parking charges on those employees where deductions were unable to be made following the National Living Wage increase in April. This decision ensures that low-paid workers will receive their hard-earned pay rise without it being undermined by deductions. It is crucial that those who contribute so much to the NHS are treated fairly, and this agreement represents a significant victory in protecting their wages and supporting their financial well-being..

## Contact Us



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