



COST

OF LIVING

CRISIS

Barnet UNISON has submitted our Cost of Living Crisis Pay Claim to the following employers:

- ◆ Barnet Council
- ◆ Capita
- ◆ ISS
- ◆ BELS
- ◆ Norse Cleaning contractor
- ◆ The Barnet Group
- ◆ NSL
- ◆ Blue 9 Security

We have made the following 3 demands

1. Travel to Work payment

The cost of fuel is driving up prices both for car users and for those using public transport. In terms of public transport costs between 2009 – 21 Bus & coach fares have gone up 88% and Rail fares have gone up 55%. Petrol and diesel costs are at a historic high. Filling up a tank costs £17 more than just one year ago, but HMRC mileage rates have not been updated since 2011/12. There are staff, keyworkers, who have **no choice but to travel to work**. They are not able to work from home. Throughout the COVID pandemic they have had to keep travelling to work and incurring their travel costs at a time when many other workers have saved money because they were able to work from home.

Barnet UNISON/GMB is asking for a Travel to Work payment to be paid each month.

2. Home Working payment

The COVID Pandemic forced home working on many employers. We now have a hybrid pattern of working where staff are still working from home with occasional days at the office. Energy prices rose even more sharply from April 2022, when the price cap received an enormous lift and the average bill increased from £1,277 to approximately £2,000 a year. In terms of some escalating costs which we believe impact on the Home worker, between 2009 – 21 House prices have risen by 53% and Electricity bills by 65%. The Emergency Cost of Living Crisis has changed things dramatically. The energy bill hikes are putting many of our members under financial insecurity especially considering further energy bill increases in the Autumn. It is only fair that the employer should contribute to energy costs for those staff working from home.

Barnet UNISON is asking for a Home Working payment to be paid each month.

3. COVID Recognition Payment

Last year the trade unions requested a COVID Recognition payment as a sign of goodwill and recognition that many of the frontline workers had continued to deliver services right through the Pandemic and when the vaccine was not available. Our request was turned down. As previously stated in our Cost-of-Living Crisis proposal many of our lowest paid are under serious financial pressure and they want a payment in recognition of what they did during the height of the COVID pandemic.

Barnet UNISON is asking that Barnet Council makes a one-off COVID-19 recognition payment.

If you need support or if you want to become a UNISON Rep please ring Barnet UNISON on 020 8359 2088 or email contactus@barnetunison.org.uk



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