

# UNISON Matters

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# Support staff demand: a GRAND in the HAND!

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cash crisis hits Trust  
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John Harris

Overworked, under-paid: a ward clerk and a health care assistant

What happened to ministers' 'Agenda for Change' on NHS pay? p4-5

On 17 December UNISON and the other NHS unions submitted pay claims to the Department of Health on behalf of members covered by the Administrative & Clerical staffs, Ancillary Staffs and Professional and Technical 'B' Staffs Whitley Councils.

These were based on the recommendations from our Service Group executive, following consultation with regions, branches and national sector committees.

The claims call for:

- an increase of £1,000 or 5%, whichever is the greater;
- a reduction in the working week to 35 hours (without loss of pay);
- an increase in the Inner and Outer London Weighting to £4000;
- the extension of Cost of Living supplements to



Making things tick: support staff are a vital part of NHS team

all staff in affected areas;

- all other fixed sum allowances to be increased by 5%;

Our priorities are for the government to address low pay and long hours, and we expect a response early in the new year. Members will be kept informed of developments.

## Angry nurses give thumbs down to 3.6% pay rise

A STAGGERING 96% of nurses responding to a *Nursing Times* survey reacted angrily to the 3.6% pay increase allocated to them by the Pay Review Body.

Only 38 out of 1035 responses said they were happy with the increase, which as UNISON has pointed out leaves nurses' and other NHS professionals' pay lagging way behind other public services such as police and teachers.

The Review Body recom-



Recommendation has made a few significant concessions to the unions'

demands, and will be fully implemented, and funded by the government.

But non-registered staff remain low-paid, with Grade A nurses beginning on a miserable £9735, while the top salary for a B Grade will be less than £13,500.

Discrimination against non-registered staff continues with the refusal of the Review Body to award them the Cost of Living supplements paid to registered staff.

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