

## Scrap the Pay Cap

**21%** is the real terms % reduction in the value of local government and school support staff pay since 2009! Imagine earning a fifth more than you do now – and that is what you have lost in pay since the start of the austerity cuts.

Inflation is once again on the increase with the RPI inflation measure running at around 3.5%. Continuing with 1% pay awards means the value of local government pay will fall even further. The question is how far are you prepared to see it fall?

If you add on the loss of certain payments such as SEN allowances, car allowances and car parking charges then the cut in our pay is even greater than 21%.

Whilst the value of our pay has plummeted there has been 750,000 jobs lost across local government! The cut in our pay has not stopped the job losses. We are all working harder than ever before for less reward.

After the appalling events in Grenfell Tower the Tories have broken their own pay cap by offering the firefighters 2% this year and 3% next, which is a sign of the pressure they are under to scrap the pay cap.

But we need to keep the pressure on to scrap the cap across local government and our schools. That's why we lobbied the West Midlands Employers in July (see pic) when they discussed the joint union claim of 5% + Living Wage for the bottom of the pay spine.

To keep the pressure on there will be a UNISON delegation from Sandwell demonstrating outside the Tory Party conference in Manchester on Sunday 1 October.

Join us and add to the thousands that will demonstrate in Manchester, demanding an end to austerity and the pay cap. Contact the branch office on 0121 569 5996 to find out about local transport.



## Further Attack on State Pension Age

The government has announced that they are planning to increase the State Pension age from 67 to 68 for those aged between 39 and 46.

Another reason to join us on the national demonstration outside the Tory Party conference on 1 October.

## UNISON Success over Tribunal Fees

After a long legal battle, UNISON won a landmark court victory against the government which means employment tribunal fees should be scrapped.

The Supreme Court ruled that the government was acting unlawfully when they introduced tribunal fees 4 years ago.

TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady stated, "This is a massive win for working people. Congratulations to UNISON for doggedly pursuing this case. Too many low-paid workers couldn't afford to uphold their rights at work, even when they've faced harassment or have been sacked unfairly."

To check out the full story on this victory go to the website [www.unison.co.uk](http://www.unison.co.uk)