



11th August 2020

NHS PAY 2021 – GMB UPDATE

Thank you to all GMB members that have taken the time so far this year to complete the two pay consultation surveys we launched. The results from both of these surveys have been considered by your National NHS Advisory Group and National Ambulance Committee in their meetings to discuss what the GMB pay claim should be for April 2021.

Over the coming months there will be many more opportunities for you to **have your say on your pay**. We will be arranging further consultations by way of survey's, webinars and newsletters. Keep your eyes on your emails, texts and social media accounts. To make sure you don't miss out on updates and events, now is the time to make sure we have all of your correct contact details. You can do this by contacting your local GMB Representative or Region and details can be accessed at:

- <https://www.gmb.org.uk/gmb-regions>

NHS Pay Protests (Saturday 8th August 2020)

Last weekend, healthcare workers at many locations across England, Wales and Scotland, took to the streets to protest against low pay in the NHS and call on the Government to commit to a pay increase. GMB was able to support these protests in many locations and local GMB Representatives were actively involved in the protests on the day. You can read GMB's statements on the protests at:

- <https://www.gmb.org.uk/news/its-time-fair-and-decent-pay-our-nurses>
- <https://www.gmb.org.uk/news/thousands-nurses-protest-fair-pay-across-uk>

Moving Forward on NHS Pay

GMB and other health unions representing staff on Agenda for Change Contracts have called on the Government to commit to pay negotiations with the unions for a substantial pay increase for all NHS workers, to provide the funding for that pay increase and to pay it early.

You can read more about this at:

- https://www.gmb.org.uk/sites/default/files/030720_NHSPayBulletin.pdf

NHS staff are currently in the third year of the last pay award. GMB was the only union to reject that deal because our members knew it was not good enough. A pay award that was so complex, individual workers did not fully understand how they would be impacted by it. GMB also believed that it fell way below forecast inflation rates and would in no where repair the damage to NHS staff pay as a result of a decade of austerity, pay caps and freezes.

All healthcare workers deserve this commitment to be made by Government. Not only to recognise their efforts during Covid-19, but to recognise their efforts every day of the year. The Government now need to turn their clapping into true recognition and value for all NHS staff.

We are still waiting for a response from Government to our request. In the meantime, you can still get involved in the pay campaign by speaking to your colleagues about the campaign and contacting your MP and asking them to support you.

Why should you contact your MP on the issue of NHS Pay?

Politicians work for you. They want to hear from you about what is important to you. They have a duty to listen and respond.

The easiest way to let them know what you think about NHS pay is to write to them. A physical letter is best as it has the most impact, but an email works too. The most impact comes from you writing in your own words about why you deserve a substantial pay increase as an NHS worker.

Below is a list of points you may wish to consider when drafting your letter or email:

- If you have been working in the NHS throughout the last decade, tell them about how your pay has been held down for years – and if you have ways of demonstrating the impact that has had on you and your family, tell them. These personal details are so important and really effective.
- Tell them what it has been like to work in the NHS during the pandemic. If you have had worries and concerns but gone into work nonetheless, tell them.
- If you are having financial difficulties especially if they are caused by the pandemic and are comfortable telling them about this, please do so.
- Say that you support GMB's call for an **early and substantial pay rise** for all NHS staff like yourself. April 2021 is too long to wait. It should be brought forward into this year.
- Ask them directly but politely if they support your call for an early and substantial pay rise.
- If you are in **England**: ask them specifically to write on your behalf to both the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, calling for an early and substantial pay rise for NHS frontline staff. Ask them to sign the Early Day Motion 742: Early Pay Rise for NHS Staff.
- If you are in **Scotland**: ask them specifically to write on your behalf to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, calling for an early and substantial pay rise for NHS frontline staff.
- If you are in **Wales**: ask them specifically to write on your behalf to the Minister for Health and Social Services, calling for an early and substantial pay rise for NHS frontline staff.
- If you are in **Northern Ireland**: ask them specifically to write on your behalf to the Minister of Health, calling for an early and substantial pay rise for NHS frontline staff.

You can find the relevant contact details at:

- England - <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>
- Scotland - <https://beta.parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps>
- Wales - <https://business.senedd.wales/mgFindMember.aspx>
- Northern Ireland - <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/mlas/search.aspx>

Please do let us know if you receive any responses. You can email these to NHS@gmb.org.uk

**Not a GMB Member?
Have a colleague who is not in a Union?
Join today – www.gmb.org.uk/join**

**Want more information on getting involved with GMB NHS Pay Campaign?
Want more information on becoming a GMB Representative in your Workplace?
Email NHS@gmb.org.uk**

**Facebook: GMB Union Public Sector Workers
Twitter: @GMBNHS**