

National Employers for local government services

Jon Richards, Rehana Azam, Jim Kennedy
Trade Union Side Secretaries
NJC for Local Government Services
c/o UNISON Centre
130 Euston Road
London NW1 2AY

17 April 2020

Dear Jon, Rehana and Jim

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY 2020

Thank you for your exceptionally prompt letter of 16 April in response to the National Employers' final pay offer.

I will respond to each element of your letter in turn but must make very clear from the outset, for the benefit of our respective audiences, that the National Employers' offer, as set out in our letter to you of 16 April, should be regarded as final and will not be revisited. If there is any clarity you need on the final offer, we are of course happy to assist. We welcome the fact that you have not formally rejected our final offer and hope that you will move to consult your members positively as soon as possible in order that local government staff can receive the pay award without undue delay.

As you state, the National Employers have recommended that representations are made to government in order to seek funding for an additional, but separate, amount to be awarded to employees in recognition of their exceptional hard work in the COVID-19 response. The Employers' recommendation was made to the three LGAs from which national employer members are drawn, and it is for these bodies to consider the process and timing of any approach. Therefore, the National Employers are neither in a position to determine the timetable nor impose a deadline as you suggest.

However, your request for a joint employer / union approach is being relayed to the relevant organisations and will be considered by them accordingly.

You will be aware from recent discussions that the National Employers believe that the forecast levels of the National Living Wage over the next few years are likely to dominate our negotiations from 2021 onwards, therefore the Employers are keen to begin informal, without prejudice, joint discussions in order to take forward this agenda. However, such discussions can only commence once agreement has been reached on this year's pay round. We therefore urge you to accept our final offer as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely,

Naomi Cooke

Naomi Cooke
Employers' Secretary