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## Strike Ballot Opens

### Strike ballot opens

The last FE News announced that colleges in England had been written to and asked to confirm that they would meet our 2015-16 claim of an increase in pay of £1 per working hour for staff at all points. Colleges were given until noon 11 September to confirm that they would meet our claim. Colleges that did not agree to meet our pay claim have now received notice that UCU will be balloting its members on taking strike action over a failure to agree a pay increase for 2015/16. The ballot opens Monday 28 September and closes 12 noon on Thursday 15 October.

Branches which have submitted the national pay claim locally with additional claim elements have met to consider the progress of the negotiations with their particular employer and those unsatisfied with progress are to be balloted separately to join coordinated strike action.

All branches which are being balloted should now have received campaign materials including posters, flyers and stickers urging members to vote in favour of taking strike action. If your branch has not yet received these materials please contact: [campaigns@ucu.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@ucu.org.uk).

### Your pay is under attack

The AoC's decision to recommend a pay freeze is unprecedented. For the last six years your take home pay has been declining in value every year. That means less money in real terms for you and your families. A pay freeze will make this worse!

Since August 2009, your employers have offered a series of below inflation pay rises that together equal less than 3% in total. When compared to the rising cost of living over the same period, lecturers have suffered a pay cut of over 17% in real terms.

- If you are a lecturer at the top of the scale on point 8, it's a cut of about £6,100 since 2009.
- If you are on point 4, in the middle of the scale, it's a cut of £4,800 over the same period.

The AoC's response this year is worse than saying nothing by making no offer at all. Instead they chose to actively recommend all colleges freeze pay. Meanwhile school teachers continue to receive annual increases which means FE lecturers fall further behind.

### Use your vote!

More than ever before it is important that every member uses their vote in this ballot. We need to send the strongest message possible to colleges that they need to properly address our pay claim and the cost of living crises hitting staff in further education. The best way to do this is with the largest possible vote in favour of taking strike action. **VOTE YES TO STRIKE ON PAY!**

If you don't vote others will make a decision for you!

Ballot papers will be delivered to your home address. If you haven't received your ballot paper by Friday 2 October please notify us that you need a duplicate by filling in the online form at <https://www.ucu.org.uk/nofeballot>.