



Our Ref: IW/MG

23rd April 2020

Ms Naomi Cooke
Employers' Side Secretary
NJC for Local Government Services
Local Government House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

Dear Naomi

Thank you for your letter dated 16th April 2020 outlining the Employers' final offer to the Craft Red Book pay claim, the content of which we have noted.

On behalf of the joint unions I will respond as follows:

We have to say we are very disappointed with the offer considering the length of time it has taken to get to this position without any meaningful negotiation. To present a response as such causes us considerable concern, not least because it does not in full address the entirety of the claim and so we cannot view this as a final offer under the circumstances.

The employers' side, while recognising the work done by our craft members, falls very much short of our members' expectations, which is particularly disappointing.

It is the view of both unions to urge a return to the negotiating table to address the claim in full and in particular, approaches to national government.

In your letter you state:

“The National Employers, on behalf of all local, regional and national politicians, pay tribute to the extraordinary contribution that all staff are making towards the national effort to deal with the COVID-19 emergency. Accordingly, members agreed to recommend that representations are made to government in order to seek funding for an additional amount to be awarded to employees in recognition of their exceptional hard work.”

Whilst the trade unions support this call, we would like to ask what methodology is expected to be used to pursue this and what discussion with the joint unions will take place in advance to strengthen such an approach. So while not dismissing this suggestion, we would request a discussion with yourselves. For example, we would suggest we write jointly with the LGA to the government in support of this.

It also should be noted and fully appreciated that the general public as council tax payers also fully appreciate and pay tribute to our craft workers who are working under extremely difficult and challenging circumstances.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Yours sincerely



Ian Woodland
Unite National Officer



Karen Leonard
GMB National Officer