

26 May 2020

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
2, Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4JA

Dear Secretary of State,

Please support a fully funded, proper pay rise for local government workers and recognise their efforts in the fight against Covid-19.

As Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government you will know first-hand the sacrifice that local government workers are making across the country in the fight against Covid-19.

Local authorities are on the front-line of the fight against coronavirus, organising and coordinating essential local services and keeping our communities safe, clean and accessible. On a daily basis, our members working in local government continue to put themselves into harm's way on the frontlines of this crisis. This is especially true for our members working in care homes – where we are (sadly) now seeing the biggest increase in deaths since the start of the outbreak.

In March at the outset of Covid-19 crisis, it was reassuring to hear you say “This government stands with local councils at this difficult time,” and that “The government will do whatever is necessary to support these efforts.”

But the new reality that our members now face every day means we cannot go back to business as usual. Following a decade of pay restraint, many staff working in local government have seen 22% lost from the value of their pay. And after years of reductions in central government funding to councils, only extra money from the Treasury can fund a fair pay increase for local government workers. The current pay offer from the NJC Employers of 2.75% offers very little by way of catch-up on years of lost earnings and falls well below what local government workers deserve.

The Covid-19 crisis has shown that our local authorities are an invaluable resource. It has also reminded the public that our council and schools staff have been the unsung heroes of

our communities for far too long. The local government workers who are saving lives and keeping our country going, deserve proper pay and working conditions.

We urge you to work with the Chancellor to deliver a direct increase in local government funding and enable local government employers to provide a proper pay increase for their staff.

Yours sincerely



Rehana Azam GMB



Jon Richards UNISON



Jim Kennedy UNITE

Trade Unions Side Secretaries