

OT STEWARDS' UPDATE

This week's update includes new guidance to help you combat cuts and changes to your services. If you have any comments or questions regarding this week's update please email baotstewards@unison.co.uk

New guidance for OTs to combat cuts and influence service reviews

There has never been a more critical time for OT staff to insist on involvement in the review and restructuring of their services. You and your colleagues must be consulted on any changes. UNISON has developed guidance called '*Service Reviews: a guide for BAOT/UNISON stewards*' to assist members to influence service reviews as well as tips on consultation, scrutiny, and accessing information from your employers. A copy of the guidance is attached. It is also available to download from the UNISON section of the BAOT website [here](#)

An update on pay

NJC Pay (England Wales and Northern Ireland): Trade unions are seeking ACAS involvement to progress discussions with the Employers regarding the 2010-11 pay freeze. Meanwhile, UNISON is continuing its campaign for better services, better jobs and better pay.

SJC Pay (Scotland): Scottish local government employers made a three-year offer of 1% from 1 April 2010; 0% from 1 April 2011 and 0.5% from 1 April 2012. All the SJC trade unions are recommending rejection of the offer. UNISON Scotland will be conducting a member's ballot recommending rejection of the offer between 21 June and 29 July.

NHS Pay: The NHS Pay Review Body expects to receive written evidence from parties in September 2010. BAOT members have been selected to provide case studies as part of UNISON's evidence and a pay survey of BAOT and UNISON members is underway and will be available online until Thursday 17th June. To access the survey click [here](#)

Personal budgets in social care

UNISON and Community Care have published results of a survey of social workers and managers in social care raising concerns about the roll out of personal budgets. Chronic underfunding and downgrading of staff means that the pro-choice principles of personalisation are being lost. Read more [here](#)

Training on how to deal with Procurement and Privatisation

Outsourcing and privatisation (sometimes called "procurement" of services) looks set to be on the increase in the coming months and years, so it is crucial that branches are trained up on these issues. UNISON offers a two day Procurement Training Course for branches. The course helps you to understand the different stages of procurement; in house bids, employment issues, confidentiality agreements, equality duties and influencing your employer's procurement decisions. If you think your branch would benefit from the training then contact Jim Lewis on 020 7551 1459 or e-mail J.Lewis@unison.co.uk for more details.

Election for UNISON General Secretary is underway.

The ballot for UNISON's general secretary is now open. Use your vote to decide who will lead the union for the next five years. [More information on the general secretary election](#)

Concern re "Voluntary Severance Schemes" in the NHS

UNISON has become aware of a number of local voluntary severance schemes being used to encourage staff to agree to terminate their contracts of employment in return for a lump sum payment.

We are concerned that they are being used as a cheaper alternative to Section 16 of the NHS Terms and Conditions Handbook where there should be an entitlement to redundancy payment and that staff may be pressured into accepting such payments without knowledge of their contractual or statutory employment rights. The NHS Staff Council are commencing discussions on how to address this issue, including the possibility of developing a national voluntary severance scheme. If you know of local voluntary severance schemes being used in your area please make your branch and regional office aware and inform your staffside about the NHS Staff Council discussions.

Events for your diary:

National OT Stewards' Training Seminar 2010

This year's seminar will be held in Bristol on 20 and 21 October 2010. Further details and an application form are available [here](#)

COT Conference social, 23 June 2010

Come along to the conference social hosted by UNISON on Wednesday 23 June 2010 between 9.00pm and midnight at The Terraces Bar, Brighton. Tickets are only £5 and include a free drink and nibbles – and live Cuban salsa dancing. Buy your ticket now as part of your conference registration or visit the UNISON exhibition stand during the Conference.

Forthcoming OT Stewards' Forum Meetings

Scotland, 4 June 2010. Contact: Nicola Morris n.morris@unison.co.uk

North West, 14 June 2010. Contact: Pam Barr pam.barr@wwl.nhs.uk

South West, 6 September 2010. Contact: j.wilson2@unison.co.uk