NHS and ambulance

Northern Ireland Christmas strike looms



More than 400 health workers could be set to strike during the Christmas period

Staff from across ambulance, health and social care will being voting on Monday [23 November] whether to take industrial action in anger at being shut out of a pay rise.

The ballot closes on December 14.

Dithering by Stormont means staff have yet to received a promised pay rise for the 2026-27 period, despite a commitment to ensure all health workers receive the real living wage by April 2026.

GMB UNION

In Northern Ireland, health, ambulance, and social care workers have been excluded from a 3.3 per cent pay increase that their counterparts in England and Wales have already received.

Alan Perry, GMB Senior Organiser, said:

“It’s utterly disgraceful dedicated health workers in Northern Ireland are forced to strike just to achieve pay parity with their NHS colleagues in England and Wales.

“These are the heroes who have tirelessly cared for us, yet find themselves undervalued and underpaid.

"Meanwhile Northern Ireland politicians comfortably accepted a pay increase in April.

“Stormont's persistent budgetary failures have dealt a severe blow to health and social workers, crippling essential services and leaving those who safeguard our well-being in dire straits.

“The impending strike action will undeniably disrupt health services.

ENDS

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Member requiring help?

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