



GMB
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Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
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13 May 2020

Dear Chancellor

Re: Public Sector Pay

I am writing to you on behalf of more than 300,000 GMB members who work in public services.

Our members are deeply concerned by this morning's reports that the Treasury is considering imposing a further two-year freeze on public sector pay. If the reports are correct then I am must put you on notice that the strongest opposition will be mounted against any policy of: 'clap them today, tomorrow cut their pay.'

Wages have still not recovered in real-terms from the unprecedented pay constraints imposed after 2010, leading to ongoing recruitment and retention problems in the NHS, schools, local authorities, police services, the civil service, and other essential services. The pay of Care Sector workers who are highly skilled yet under-paid still needs rectifying. Many public service workers cannot afford basic necessities as things stand, and the Treasury's own 2015 advice (obtained by GMB) said that pay constraints would lead to an increase in child poverty.

Public Sector workers are our precious resource and they have taken enormous personal risks over the last two months in the name of public service. Tragically, some of them have lost their lives to coronavirus disease. In our view, it is politically and morally unconscionable to suggest, explore or cuts their wages in real-terms in return.



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I urge you to make a public statement that utterly rejects and repudiates a further round of public sector pay cuts at the earliest opportunity.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Azam'.

Rehana Azam
GMB National Secretary (Public Services)