



## Strike threat facing schools and cleansing as GMB Scotland members reject latest COSLA pay offer

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School support staff and refuse workers moved “a step closer” to industrial action today after GMB Scotland members rejected COSLA’s latest pay offer.

95 per cent of members who participated in the union’s consultative ballot over the 2021 offer voted to reject an £850 increase for local government staff earning up to £25,000 a year.

The union will now move to a full industrial action ballot of nearly 10,000 members employed in schools and local refuse and cleansing services across Scotland, increasing the possibility of autumn strikes.

**GMB Scotland Senior Organiser for Public Services Drew Duffy said:**

“COSLA bosses have failed to table a pay offer that reflects decent value for many workers who have been part of the frontline response to COVID-19.

“The prospect of an increase that would amount to little more than £15 a week extra in the pockets of workers like school cleaners and refuse collectors has been rightly and resoundingly rejected.

“COSLA’s dither and delay means local government staff across Scotland are still mired on pre-pandemic pay rates – there has been no “thank you” for these workers.

“It means the threat of strikes this autumn, disrupting schools and community services like waste collection and street cleansing, is now a step closer.”



