



GMB MEMBERS BULLETIN NHS & AMBULANCE SERVICE 5 MAY 2020

Pay 2020

You have now entered year 3 of the NHS pay award and the GMB has been contacted by many members expressing their dissatisfaction at the amount of pay increase received, particularly considering the extreme conditions that NHS and Ambulance Service staff are working under due to Covid.

GMB members voted overwhelmingly to reject the pay award due to it effectively being a real terms pay cut for the majority of NHS staff.

As we start to consider pay negotiations for 2021 we want to hear from you about the level of pay increase you received in April 2020. Specifically, we want to know your:

- Job Title
- Pay Band
- Years of continuous employment service
- Increase on your basic pay between March and April 2020 (do not include enhancements and overtime as these may vary).

If you are happy to share this information, please email us direct at: NHS@gmb.org.uk

Death in Service

ENGLAND

The Government have announced a Life Assurance scheme which will pay £60,000 to the family of health and social care workers that die as a result of getting Covid at work. This is an additional lump sum payment that is separate to any current pension scheme entitlements. We are still waiting for the Government to publish the fine details of the scheme. As soon as these are available a specific Death in Service GMB Member Bulletin will be published to give you all the details you need to know.

SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND

Each devolved country will also be outlining details of their schemes in the coming days and these will be notified to you once they are published.

Mental Health

Many GMB members and Representatives are reporting to us increased stress levels, anxiety and mental health issues as a result of Covid and the pressures this has created for NHS staff.

GMB will shortly be launching a mental health survey for Health and Social Care workers and we encourage all our members to complete it.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns on this affecting you, your colleagues or in your workplace, please contact your local GMB representative for advice and support.

Terms and Conditions - England Only

GMB is in regular weekly dialogue with NHS employers and the Department of Health regarding Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions throughout Covid. The GMB has been involved in discussions, to ensure our members rights at work are protected throughout Covid and have been influencing employers information and guidance that they are issuing to local NHS trusts and ambulance services.

To date, we have been involved in discussions to strengthen covid related terms and conditions on a variety of issues including sick pay to include enhancements if covid related, no sickness triggers, special covid leave, shielding and bank workers.

We are also currently waiting for publication of further guidance specific to bank staff, overtime pay, redeployment, non NHS organisations, and furlough.

As terms and conditions are confirmed these are updated on the GMB NHS FAQ so ensure you keep checking for the latest updates. You can access these at: <https://www.gmb.org.uk/nhs-and-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

If you work in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland and have a specific terms and conditions query, please speak direct to your local GMB Representative.

Testing

From the beginning of Covid, GMB has been calling on Government to expand the access to testing for all NHS staff. The Government have now announced this is the case but there is still a long way to go, until we see the level of testing that we require. The GMB believes that there should be mass and repeated testing of all NHS staff and we also await further guidance regarding the results of tests and the impacts on individuals.

Essential workers can now book tests for themselves and their household. This can be done by contacting your line manager who can access the testing capacity available in NHS laboratories. NHS staff can also use the self-referral online portal on the Government website.

Guidance on how NHS staff in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland can access the tests can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Not a GMB Member? Join today - www.gmb.org.uk/join

Want to be a GMB Rep or Contact in your workplace? Email NHS@gmb.org.uk