



13th December 2017

Our Ref: 139/602

Dear Colleague

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

We have just been informed that government pay policy has been capped at 1% for the next 4 years. This is clearly something that will anger teachers whose real salary has dropped by some 15% in the past 5 years. A concerted campaign to right this wrong will be commencing in early 2018 involving all public sector workers and we will be sending you details of this in the New Year. In the meantime the UTU's action, which we increased last month to include PRSD will continue unchanged in the meantime. The Union's CEC will meet on 12th of January 2018 to review the industrial action. Please feel free to contact your local CEC representative if you want to influence the outcome of the next CEC meeting.

We thank you once again for your efforts to comply with the action despite additional pressure from DE to frustrate this legitimate action. You have clearly illustrated how workload issues have impacted on your key role as a teacher. We owe that much to the pupils. You will have noted that suddenly the Head of Management Side, Gavin Boyd has realised, belatedly, what we have been pointing out for years: that schools are only running on the goodwill of the staff – and teachers, including principals, are at the end of their tethers! The CEC had a long discussion about how we can assist our members further in this time of unprecedented pressure and we will be announcing in January additional training which we will be putting in place to help you to manage the pressures of being a teacher.

REDUNDANCY

DE has informed us that the compensation for teachers who volunteer to obviate a redundancy in their own school or by transferred redundancy this year will be a maximum of 52 weeks salary, depending on service. This represents a reduced amount compared to previous compensation packages. Any member requiring further details of how this scheme works should contact a Field Officer or attend the UTU/INTO/NEU joint retirement course. Details of dates and venues are on the website.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Details of the annual joint INTO/UTU Conference (which now incorporates NEU principals) are on the UTU website. This always proves to be an interesting event and we think it is vital to give Principals a forum to share their concerns with other Principals and listen to their views. This year it will be held on Tuesday 23rd January in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown and will cover topics of interest to Principals including employment law issues, industrial action, ethical leadership and newcomer children. If you are not a Principal yourself, please encourage your Principal to attend.

PROFESSIONALISM

Teachers have found their professionalism under attack in many ways. The CEC has highlighted the need for teachers to have their professional confidence restored and is planning to discuss a number of ways in which this might be achieved at the next CEC meeting. In the meantime if any member feels that their health has been affected by issues pertaining to school please contact Headquarters for support.

ANY TEACHER WHO FINDS THEY NEED HELP TO RE-BALANCE THEIR WORK/LIFE BALANCE SHOULD FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US!