



PRESS RELEASE

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NI TEACHERS COULD BE SET TO STRIKE DEPENDING ON BALLOT OUTCOME

Thousands of teachers across Northern Ireland are set to vote on re-instating industrial action as their salaries again place them at the bottom of the UK profession's pay league, it was revealed today.

The outcome of the ballot – set to take place before Christmas – could result in further strike action, according to the Ulster Teachers' Union.

"Once again Northern Ireland teachers find themselves as the lowest paid members of the profession across these islands. It is disheartening to say the least," said Jacquie White, General Secretary of the UTU.

"Despite promises from our politicians and decision makers to ensure our teachers are equally valued the marked lack of progress and commitment here on 2024-25 pay negotiations is causing grave concern.

"We call on the Minister to address this issue as a matter of priority, restore the pay to fair and equitable levels, and allow us to move forward."

The ballot was announced today by the UTU, NASUWT and INTO.

"For too long the profession here seems to have been down-graded. Indeed it took years of campaigning and eventually strike action before our teachers received a pay deal which put them in line with their colleagues in GB," continued Ms White.

"The fact that for some this represented an almost 25% salary increase shows just how far behind NI teachers' pay had fallen and maybe because of that it seemed respect for teaching was lagging behind other degree level professions too.

"This pay deal was hard-fought and forced our members to take a stance on striking though many were reluctant to do so but when children's education is suffering then something had to be done.

"Now that teachers' pay elsewhere in GB has risen we again find ourselves at the back of line in the profession's pay league."