

PLEASE NOMINATE THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES
PAUL HOLMES DIANA LEACH
JANE DOOLAN ANDREA EGAN
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE UNISON NEC ELECTIONS 2021

Dear Branch Secretary,

All four of us are sitting NEC members for Local Government. We have worked tirelessly for the policies on which we were elected. We are sending out a joint letter seeking nomination for the four separate NEC seats. We have done this because we think that UNISON is at a crossroads. The last few years have seen hundreds of thousands of jobs in the public sector, particularly in Local Government, disappear. This has been coupled with poor pay settlements, reduction in pension scheme benefits and cuts in pay and conditions across many local authorities, which has collectively seen our living standards fall. The Government is now threatening to cut the Local Government Pension Scheme and statutory redundancy payments in local government.

The union's response to these attacks has often been lukewarm and lacking confidence/leadership. Whilst many individual branches have fought tremendous rearguard actions, such as the Birmingham homecare workers, Barnsley lunchtime assistants, Glasgow women workers over equal pay, nationally the union seems to be lacking dynamism and concentrating on recruitment/finances when our members' real 'bank balance' is their pay/terms and conditions/job security and pension.

The Government will now be wanting public sector workers to pay for the Covid crisis with a 'pay freeze' and compulsory redundancies. Our members need rewarding for the stress of the last 12 months.

Whilst we are standing for four separate NEC seats as individuals, and we are all existing NEC members with the right experience to undertake the roles, we also feel that our voting records, experience, political views, energy and enthusiasm are worthy of our re-election.

The union needs to change. We all support that change. Our experiences over the last few years have not been of a lay member-led union, rather one where full time officers have too much influence. The whole emphasis of the union needs to be on transferring resources to the branches, who are over-stretched. There is no doubt that employers will be looking at 'firing and re-hiring' tactics to reduce terms and conditions.

We are prepared to give leadership. We are not frightened to pursue the right policies—we have shown that. We seek your nomination in order to create a lay member-led union, accountable to the members, not afraid of making decisions and confident in the union.

The union needs real change—we ask for your support in helping make that change. We supported real change in the General Secretary election—we support it in the NEC elections.

Yours faithfully

Paul Holmes

Diana Leach

Jane Doolan

Andrea Egan

Nominating Procedure

Nominations open on Monday 1st February 2021 and close at 5pm on Friday 5th March 2021, and must be made by a quorate branch meeting or committee. Nomination information can be found at:

<https://www.unison.org.uk/about/our-organisation/lay-structure-democracy-and-elections/current-elections>

PAUL HOLMES



**UNISON RMS NO:
1787781**

9 Hawthorne Terrace
Alverthorpe
Wakefield
WF2 0AY

Dear Colleagues,

I am seeking nomination for the **National Local Government (Male) Seat** on UNISON's NEC.

I am Kirklees UNISON Branch Secretary, one of the 10 largest UNISON branches in Britain with over 9,000 members. I've been re-elected as Kirklees Branch Secretary 29 times!

I've been elected to UNISON's NEC 7 consecutive times (and once, in 1987, to NALGO's NEC). In my time on UNISON's NEC, Service Group Executive and National Joint Council, I've always been approachable. I don't see my role as spending as much time as possible in UNISON HQ, but to get around branches and regions. I've spoken at dozens of branches across the 4 countries and will continue to do so.

Pay in the public sector is a disgrace and worse is to come. Our members are being driven into poverty. We need coordinated campaigns which the leadership believe in.

NEC members should give leadership, be honest, have integrity, be straight talking and be in touch with the members. I think I bring these qualities to the table.

UNISON Steward—44 years
Branch Secretary—31 years
NEC Member—14 years
UNISON General Secretary Candidate—2010 and 2020.
(I came second in 2020.)

DIANA LEACH



**UNISON RMS NO:
1508904**

57 Princes Road
Brighton
Sussex
BN2 3RH

Dear Colleagues,

I am seeking nomination for the **National Government (General) seat** on UNISON's NEC.

I am a member of the National Joint Committee (NJC) dealing with pay negotiations/terms and conditions, also sitting on its Executive. All Local Government workers deserve a decent pay rise.

I am a branch officer in the Brighton and Hove branch representing members in individual hearings and major disputes with our employer. Our branch has a long tradition of successfully fighting for our members and supporting nursery nurses, teaching assistants, social workers as well as others including many other public sector workers.

As an NEC member I have always supported branches in both local and national disputes, argued for more branch resources including more funding and challenged decisions that I feel do not ultimately benefit our members.

Too many times our activists are fighting their own battles without the full support of our national union. This has to change. We need change on the NEC to ensure more notice is taken of what is happening on the ground and respond to this. I look forward to receiving the support of your branch.

Steward—31 years,
Branch Officer—18 years
NEC Member—14 years

JANE DOOLAN



**UNISON RMS NO:
1179349**

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London E8 3HS

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Phone: 0207 249 7328

Dear Colleagues,

I am seeking nomination for the **National Local Government (Female) seat** on UNISON's NEC. There are two seats.

I have held a number of positions in our union since 1981 and Branch Secretary of Islington since 1999. During that time, I have fought hard and campaigned for members' rights with equalities being at the centre of everything.

I continue to fight for our members.

Recently supporting members in schools and Libraries ensuring their Health, Safety and wellbeing. Setting up networks with groups of members and activists to empower them and protect their rights at work and ensuring our members are safe during this pandemic. However, branches need more resources for us to fulfil our potential and strengthen our union.

Over the years I have been instrumental in fighting outsourcing of services and bringing services back in house.

I have worked alongside my NEC colleagues and I believe we have highlighted and addressed concerns raised by members in Local Government. I want to continue with that work and ask you to nominate me and my colleagues and ultimately vote for us.

Please feel free to visit my facebook page.
Jane's NEC page and Jane Doolan4NEC 2021.

ANDREA EGAN



**UNISON RMS NO:
1289161**

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Dear Colleagues,

I am seeking nomination for the **National Local Government (Female) Seat** on UNISON's NEC. There are two seats.

I want to make a difference. I am in an organised, campaigning branch supporting and facilitating members to fight back, using the union as a collective voice.

To deal with the challenges we face, it is essential that we have the full involvement of activists, members and officials at every level. Accountability and commitment are vital to the role.

I have always believed that members must have balanced information alongside strong leadership. We have to change the narrative.

In my branch I am one of a team, I work tirelessly on recruitment and retention initiatives to maintain union density and consequently recognitions rights. I have brought that attitude to my work on the NEC over the last 4 years.

Active in UNISON—30 years, holding various branch positions over the years and am now Branch Secretary, Bolton UNISON.

I am also active at Regional level. I led the first strike against academies in UNISON and ran a successful campaign to stop the closure of my Authority's last local-authority run Nursery.