

Our Ref: WJ/RS/CB/GenCircOffsBr

27 June 2019

GMB

LONDON
REGION

**All Branches
All Officers
All Staff
Regional Committee & Regional Council Members**

Dear Colleagues

Contribution Increase

Congress 2019 agreed an increase of 10p per week on Grade 1 and 5p a week on Grade 2 contribution rates

These increases take effect from 1 October 2019 and will be shown in Rule 45 of the updated Rule Book which will be available on the National website from 1 July 2019.

Grade 1 contributions will increase from £3.15 to **£3.25** a week or from
£13.70 to **£14.14** a month

Grade 2 contributions will increase from £1.83 to **£1.88** a week or from
£7.96 to **£8.18** a month

MPO

Former MPO members are required to pay contributions according to their remuneration but a minimum equivalent to the GMB Grade 1 rate. The revised scales are set out as follows:

MPO Contribution Rates from 1st October 2019

| Remuneration £ | Monthly Subscription £ | Annual Subscription £ |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Up to 25,000 | 14.14 | 169.59 |
| 25,001 to 30,000 | 15.55 | 186.60 |
| 30,001 to 35,000 | 16.60 | 199.20 |
| 35,001 to 40,000 | 18.15 | 217.80 |
| 40,001 to 45,000 | 19.75 | 237.00 |
| 45,001 to 50,000 | 21.00 | 252.00 |
| Over 50,000 | 22.25 | 267.00 |
| Retired Annual Only | | 19.00 |

UNITY

In accordance with the Transfer of Engagements former ordinary members of UNITY the Union will pay contributions of £2.81 per week in effect from 1 October 2019. This increase is in line with the percentage increase applied to GMB Grade 1.

For members paying by Check Off, our National Admin Unit will notify employers of the increase in week commencing **5th August 2019**.

Regional Secretary: Warren Kenny

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UNIONLINE

YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM

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In accordance with the Direct Debit Guarantee, members paying by Direct Debit will be notified of the increase by email or by a letter from the General Secretary during August/September.

There were also changes to other Benefits agreed in the CEC Financial Proposals Report to Congress 2019. These are as follows

RETIRED LIFE MEMBERS

Congress agreed that the CEC would review the contribution for retired life membership. This was formerly a one-off payment of £40, and it was removed in 2015. The CEC finance Report stated that the cost of eliminating this payment was around £40,000 per year, but the concern is that now, many members are reclassified as retired life members without them taking an active decision to remain involved, leading to a disproportionate growth in membership numbers representing members who are not paying regular contributions.

PAYING REDUCED CONTRIBUTIONS (Rule 47)

Congress agreed changes to the qualification which pays reduced contributions so that this includes members not working because of unemployment, illness and also now includes those on maternity or shared parental leave as all instances result in the member's wage being significantly reduced or stopped. As a reminder, any member who qualifies for reduced contributions must apply to their branch.

FUNERAL BENEFIT (Rule 53)

The Funeral Benefit which was last increased in 2015 will be increased in line with inflation by £25 from £350 to £375 (effective from 1 July 2019). There are no changes to the qualifications for the benefit and GMB retains the right to recover arrears from the funeral benefit. (Rule 53.2)

DISABLEMENT GRANTS AND FATAL ACCIDENT BENEFIT (Rules 52 & 56)

Congress recognised that there were some aspects of the rules for disablement grants and fatal accident benefit which may be out of date.

There is a provision in the rules for both benefits that, if there is a successful legal claim arising from the accident which caused our member's disablement or death, and that claim results in an award of ten times the maximum level of grant available in our rules, then GMB benefit will not be payable.

Congress agreed that this was unfair in that the measure of legal damages is based on many factors, including the level of, possibly, an employer's culpability, and it seems odd that benefit is withheld from what would usually be the most serious cases. There is no record of the restriction being operated, and Congress agreed that this be removed .

Two further restrictions on fatal accident benefit are that funeral benefit is withheld (or recovered) if a late member is awarded fatal accident benefit, and that any disablement benefit previously paid is deducted from a fatal accident award.

Congress agreed that withholding funeral benefit is unnecessarily mean-minded and should cease therefore clause 3 of Rule 53 will be deleted from the Rule Book.

The bar on duplicating benefits was intended to avoid paying twice in cases of industrial diseases, but again and as GMB has no record of this restriction being operated, Congress agreed that it be abolished.

SUPERANNUATION (Rule 31)

The annual payment of superannuation paid to former members of the Boilermakers' Society (ASBSBSW) has remained unchanged for some time. The fund is in an actuarial deficit, but the number of beneficiaries is now dwindling. Congress agreed that this benefit be increased from £64 to £70.

In closing I would request that all Regional Officers and Branch Officials bring these increases and changes to the attention of all workplace representatives and members in their workplaces before the actual time of the increase which will take effect from 1 October 2019.

Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation and assistance

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren Kenny".

WARREN KENNY
Regional Secretary .