



nationalshop **stewardsnetwork**

Workplace Report

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES AND IN YOUR WORKPLACE

“WE’RE RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE!”

Workers and, especially those organised in trade unions, were delighted to see the back of the years of Tory misrule in last year’s general election.

Although the landslide victory for Starmer’s Labour actually resulted from fewer people voting for the party than had supported Jeremy Corbyn’s Labour in 2019 (and much less than in 2017), and there was no great hope of monumental change, there was at least an expectation that some things would get better at work and we could then rely on our unions to put pressure on for further change.

It wasn’t just pay rises we were after. We’d won some decent rises after striking back against May, Johnson, Truss and Sunak. But it was a different approach to things – for the NHS to be saved from complete destruction, for local government funding to be improved so services stopped being cut, jobs privatised and further decline in everything from refuse collection to road maintenance. We wanted to see a fundamental change in the delivery of social care and education – so they weren’t just at the beck and call of private profiteers.

It didn’t bode well when Starmer announced he was cutting winter fuel payments to almost 11 million pensioners – betraying previous promises to the poorest in society right from the start of the new government. Whether the ‘black hole’ found in the finances was a genuine surprise or not, we didn’t elect a government to plug that hole by taking from the poor!

Unite’s general secretary Sharon Graham said:

“Instead of picking the pocket of pensioners, the government should be looking at a wealth tax that targets the very richest in society”.

Unite’s own research demonstrated, “67% of pensioners reduced their heating, and 63% felt the cold more often as a result of the Labour party’s cuts to the Winter Fuel Payment. A third are taking fewer baths or showers and 16 per cent have cut back on hot meals due to the increased costs of trying to stay warm”.

But ever since this troubling start, Labour have continued to announce austerity measure after austerity measure. In effect, simply continuing Tory cuts. We didn’t elect them to do this! Almost one million 16 to 24-year-olds, around one in

seven, are not in work, education or training. They need a future, and our unions must start to better organise young workers and those searching for work.

Cuts causing further hardship are continuing to be announced every day by councils of all political colours. The NHS is close to melt-down in some areas. Schools are looking at wholesale redundancies of teachers and support staff to dangerous levels. Our unions must fight back together against these cuts; we can't treat them differently just because of who's making them.

The National Shop Stewards Network will soon issue more bulletins and newsletters about changes to employment rights and what already looks like being a missed opportunity, as Labour seems more intent on appeasing big business than protecting workers and their livelihoods.

Our patience is running out! We want change and we expect our unions to be at the forefront of that change.

* Welcome to the NSSN Workplace Report. We hope to be able to issue it every few weeks so you can use it in your workplace.

* We will still be issuing our long running comprehensive weekly bulletin featuring all the trade union news you need to know.

* Both of these can be found at shopstewards.net

* We would urge you to get involved in your union and join play an active part in a movement for change.

* You can also help by getting your union branch to affiliate to the NSSN, or affiliate as a group of trade unionists in your own workplace.

* Get more details either at the website or by emailing info@shopstewards.net to find out more about national and local activities.

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2025 NSSN Conference

Saturday 5 July

Conway Hall, London WC1R 4RL

11am-4.30pm

**MAKE THE RICH PAY,
NOT WORKERS!**

**Organise against Starmer and Reeves's austerity
and the bosses' offensive**

Register in advance by emailing us via info@shopstewards.net

