

Sarah Messenger
Employers' Secretary
Local Government Employers
Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1p 3HZ

7 April 2009

Dear Sarah

The Trade Union Side of the NJC Executive met this afternoon to consider your pay offer for NJC employees for 2009-10 and the associated timetable.

On behalf of the three unions, I am writing to say that we are unable to recommend the current offer and therefore we are writing to you to seek an urgent meeting of the full NJC at which we would expect negotiation to commence on an improved offer. We would like to suggest 22 April as a suitable date for that meeting.

We also considered the timetable you have stipulated for the conclusion of negotiations. While we too would sincerely hope for a swift and acceptable conclusion to the negotiations, we would like to express our deep disquiet at the stipulation of such a curtailed timetable – particularly over a period containing three Bank Holidays. We consider it to run counter to the spirit of the NJC and a constructive approach to industrial relations in local government.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope that the NJC can go ahead on 22 April.

Best wishes,



Heather Wakefield
On behalf of the Trade Union Side Joint Secretaries

cc Peter Allenson, Unite
Brian Strutton, GMB