

GMB MEMBERS AT ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL SOUTH LONDON TO BALLOT FOR STRIKE OVER BEING SHORT CHANGED ON PAY AND CONDITIONS

Members are underpaid by 80p per hour, they have no sick pay scheme, they get less paid holidays and have inferior premium pay arrangement for overtime and unsocial hours than nationally agreed rates

50 cleaning staff who are GMB members employed by contractor Initial Healthcare at St George's Hospital, Tooting, South West London are to be balloted on industrial action to bring their pay into line with the national agreement for health service workers. They are being paid below the nationally agreed rates of pay that apply to their colleagues who also work on the site for other contractors. In a consultative ballot these members voted by 98% in favour of industrial action to end their underpayment. GMB are giving notice today to the company and NHS Trust of the official ballot. The official strike ballot will commence in seven days time and the results will be available next month.

These members undertake the acute deep clean at the hospital in the new Atkinson Morley building which was provided under a PFI contract. They are underpaid to the tune of 80p per hour, they have no sick pay scheme, they get less paid holidays and have inferior premium pay arrangement for overtime and unsocial hours. GMB have been in discussions with both the NHS Trust and the company to seek to resolve this underpayment. To date no progress whatsoever has been made.

Frank Macklin, GMB Organiser said **“These members working at St Georges are being underpaid and neither the company of NHS Trust has lifted a finger to address the issue and put it right.**

GMB has been at the forefront in the campaign for an end to the two tier workforce that is endemic within the NHS Trust's and contractors alike. These key workers provide an excellent and crucial service and are only looking for parity. To have the same terms and conditions that has been agreed at local and national level. GMB calls on Initial healthcare and the Trust to do the right thing and implement the nationally agreed terms and conditions.”

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