Over the last few weeks UNISON has been conducting a straw poll of members, similar to the other unions within Yorkshire Ambulance Service, and in line with expected results there is a strong feeling of injustice around the below inflation pay offer from the Government that once again gives our members real terms pay cuts.

With this injustice and mistreatment of NHS staff the decision has been made by UNISON to move to a **FULL INDUSTRIAL ACTION BALLOT**, asking members to vote on supporting industrial action in order to get the pay and conditions members deserve, help stop the haemorrhaging of staff out of the NHS and protect future services to ensure the exceptional support our patients receive from our current over worked, underappreciated members.

Industrial action can seem scary or excessive for some members, however it is the last resort and doesn't mean an immediate walk out. Action can be done in stages, that show the Government that enough is enough, whilst allowing our members to continue to care for their patient. Too many times our patients will say to us 'you deserve more', 'you deserve better'. They see it, we see it, now we need this Government to see it, we have been quiet for too long, if we don't stand up now, then things will get worse and worse which benefits no one, only the pockets of those that want to capitalise on the downfall of the NHS.

Yorkshire Ambulance Branch will be emailing and writing to members shortly, explaining more about industrial action, the position and what will it mean to you. Then on the 27th October the UNISON postal ballot will begin, all members should receive a ballot paper to their home address (or rather the address provided when joining). I cannot emphasise enough the importance of checking the information that UNISON has on file regarding your home address. If you have moved since joining and not updated the information you may not receive the ballot form and your voice will not be heard. This can be corrected by calling UNISON Direct on 08000 857857, logging onto the unison main website and checking through the 'my unison' tab, or emailing yas.unisonvote@nhs.net with your membership number (if possible) name, and new address/old address so this can be checked.

Everyone needs a voice in this ballot, don't lose yours!

Together We Rise