

# National Employers for Local Government Services

Mr A Ritchie  
General Secretary UCATT  
UCATT House  
177 Abbeville Road  
LONDON  
SW4 9RL

10 August 2007

Dear Alan,

## **CRAFT PAY NEGOTIATIONS 2007**

I am writing regarding this year's pay negotiations. A claim was submitted on behalf of the Trade Union Side of the JNC on 23 March seeking a pay increase of 5% or £1,000 pa (whichever is the greater) The claim also seeks further discussions on, and improvements in, a number of pay and conditions service items related specifically to craft workers.

The Employers' position in all of the national negotiations in local government this year has been influenced by local authorities' level of affordability. With that in mind the Employers are prepared to offer an increase of 2% with effect from 1 April 2007 on all pay rates and pay-related allowances for craftworkers. The Employers would also be content to increase tools allowances by the annual growth in the cost of tools to March 2007. I am sure we can find an agreed methodology to calculate this

As far as the other elements of your claim are concerned, the Employers remain committed to the development of new pay systems at local level that comply with the principles of legislation on equal pay. We have recently undertaken a survey of local authorities on a number of employment issues related to craft workers. This shows the continued development at local level of all-inclusive salary structures, a subject we have discussed on a number of occasions in Joint Secretaries' meetings in the last few years.

To that end we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the development of craft pay systems with you as part of the negotiations ahead of the 2008 pay settlement. We would suggest the establishment of a small JNC working group to take this forward. The terms of reference would be a matter for agreement but we would envisage the working group's discussions encompassing a number of the craft-related issues covered by your claim

I hope that we can move quickly to a settlement of your 2007 claim and then start the discussions we have suggested ahead of the 2008 negotiations

Yours sincerely,  
Phil White  
Phil White  
Assistant Employers' Secretary

cc Mr J Kennedy, UCATT  
Mr J Allott, Amicus section of Unite