




National Executive Council Elections 2023: Nomination requests

<p>Ed Whitby Newcastle City branch Membership no. 4754980 Standing in the Northern Region Male seat</p> 	<p>Amanda Martin Tees Esk & Wear Valleys Health Membership no. 8212605 Standing in the Northern region Female seat</p> 	<p>Cath Davis Northern Holding Branch Membership no. 4756061 Standing in the Northern region Female low paid seat</p> 
---	--	---

Dear Branch Secretary,

We are writing to ask your branch to consider nominating us for the following seats in 2023 NEC elections. Please can you raise this at your next branch/branch committee/nominating meeting between **Monday 9 January and Monday 13 February 2023**. If your branch agrees to nominate us, this must be registered by 5pm on Monday 13 February using the CES online portal that will be emailed to your branch. More information here: [NEC 2023 | Current elections | UNISON National](#)

- **Ed Whitby Northern Male seat**
- **Amanda Martin Northern Region Female seat**
- **Cath Davis Northern Region Female low paid reserved seat**

All UNISON members face the threat of a spiralling cost-of-living crisis and further austerity from a Tory Government determined to make us pay for the economic crisis. These elections are hugely important in determining the way that UNISON tackles these issues. We are standing in solidarity with the Time for Real Change majority on the current NEC. We support the democratisation of the union, making our strategy & organisation fit the needs of the current situation facing our members.



Ed Whitby – Northern Male Seat (4754980)

I have worked for Newcastle City Council for over 20 years in Children's Services. Always an active unison member and shop steward., holding positions including Convenor, Equalities Officer. At present I am a shop steward and Labour Link Officer.

I have been a delegate to local government, national, LGBT and regional conferences and a member of Regional Council, Committee and Labour Link committee. I chair my local Labour Party branch. Before that I was a unison rep and officer while at Newcastle University.

I have led campaigns bringing together workers and parents against cuts including Sure Start. I have fought to improve pay to the lowest paid workers in the council, campaigning for the foundation living wage in Newcastle (alongside Citizens UK and Living Wage foundation), which the council voted for in Autumn 2022. I continue to ensure this is implemented for all commissioned services including Care Workers.

I would seek views prior to key meetings, report back after every meeting to members, branches, and region. Transparency democratic accountability is central, I want to be part of change that delivers for our members. If you would like me to speak to or answer any further questions or attend a meeting with members, I would be happy to. You can contact me via edunison@gmail.com or 07740099479



Amanda J Martin – Northern Female seat (8212605)

I'm an Assistant Branch Secretary incorporating 3000 health workers, a rank-and-file union activist. I've worked previously in higher education and then as an NHS Medical Secretary for 20 years, proudly representing low paid, predominantly women members. An active socialist and Labour Party member. I participate in the Women's Self-Organised Group consistently supporting members taking action to defend jobs, terms,

and conditions.

I have been a union activist and Socialist all my life, committed to fighting for working people in the workplace and my local community – UNISON must be member-led and democratic at all levels, and encourage increased participation from women.

I will work for a Union we can all be proud of – democratic, member-led, and overall working to defend jobs, pay, and working conditions. Please support my candidature and let's take the fight back to the Tories.

Amanda Martin, email: amanda.martin4@nhs.net. mobile No: 07850 248459



Cath Davis Northern Region Female low paid reserved seat (4756061)

My name is Cath Davis and I'm a carer, a single parent and worked as a foster carer for teenage girls. I wish to stand for the Women's Low Paid Seat.

I have been a member of Unison for 25 years. I previously worked in the Civil Service. I have always been an activist and served as a steward and branch chair in the

Northumberland Branch and more recently as a Labour link officer in the North Tyneside Branch.

As a carer I'm part of a 2 million strong workforce. Too many of us have had poor pay and terms of employment for too long. I want to be part of changing that.

I need two branches to nominate me to get my name on to the ballot paper. I believe passionately in union democracy and being accountable to members. I am willing to attend branch meetings to answer any questions during, or after, the election. I hope your branch will give me the chance of standing.

My membership number is 4756061

I am currently in the Northern Holding Branch.

You can contact me on cathydavis70@gmail.com or 07808210572

What we stand for

UNISON must be a member-led union – We believe this means that elected members should run our union, not selected full-time officials. We want to work with all our paid officials, but it is members and their elected representatives that should be the real leaders. **We need to be an organising, not a servicing, union** – we cannot solve all of our members' problems on a one-by-one basis. Members will always need individual support, but the focus should be on collective action. We need to increase UNISON's collective and organising activities and to empower our members. **Every large city and county** should have a proud UNISON resource centre in the high street: we need to make it as easy as possible for members to find us. We must present UNISON as a vibrant, democratic, fighting and organising union.

The pay crisis – UNISON must end the scourge of low pay. For too long UNISON has failed to adequately fight poverty pay, pay freezes and below-inflation deals. We cannot simply approach pay negotiations the way that UNISON's leadership has done in the past. Hikes in the price of fuel, heating and food are seriously impacting our members. No UNISON member should have to rely on food banks. We need fully funded and staffed public services. Members should not pay the cost of Tory austerity. To achieve this, we want **more cooperative relationships with other unions**. We should work together whenever we can.

We must support members needing to take industrial action. Strike pay rates have increased substantially, but there is more to do. UNISON only has a national strike fund of £21 million. This must change if we are to show employers and government, we mean business. Also, we need to ensure that every region supports branches who need to carry out effective strike action.

UNISON's finances – We need full disclosure and transparency as to how members' money is spent. We must make best use of the surpluses made nationally and locally during the pandemic. Also, we must review UNISON's large property estate and where appropriate, free up resources for organising. We must continue to bring the UNISON Staff Pension scheme deficit down to manageable levels. Members' subs should not be required to keep the scheme afloat. **We should insource all outsourced UNISON services wherever feasible**, based on our trade union values and our aspirations for our union. **We need a green agenda within UNISON**, including an audit of UNISON company cars and the proliferation of meetings requiring members and staff to travel long distances.

We believe that UNISON should play a positive but challenging role in the Labour Party. UNISON resources and influence should be used to promote the removal of anti-trade union laws, public delivery of public services and a Green New Deal that tackles the climate emergency through the creation of green, well-paid, union jobs.

Equalities in UNISON are central to our vision and to **fight with real action against the scourges of racism, homophobia, transphobia, disability discrimination and sexism**. There have been some major developments over the last two years. But there is much more to do to make equality a reality through our entire union, not just its NEC but at all tiers of our union, including within its staffing.

Legal advice – We must review UNISON's main legal services contract and particularly the difficulties branch secretaries have accessing timely employment law advice.

We need a robust and effective review of staffing to ensure that the great work our staff do is as efficient and meaningful to members as it can be. **We believe UNISON members should decide whether our most senior roles should be elected.**

We must end once and for all the punitive culture of disciplinary action. Disciplinary investigations into members take far too long, with no regard for welfare. We must continue to look at these processes from top to bottom and end their use to resolve political differences.

We are confident that the ideas we support will build on the progress made over the last two years. We urge all UNISON members to vote for Time for Real Change candidates in these NEC elections and, if you are able, to help us campaign for real change in UNISON.

Yours sincerely

Ed Whitby
Amanda Martin
Cath Davies