

The Wakey Worker

WAKEFIELD DISTRICT UNISON

#3

WAKEFIELD MINUS ONE

COULDA SWORN
T'COUNCIL SAID
IT'D BE SORTED
THIS YEAR



The Cold, Hard Truth

The Cold War of Wakefield One (2012 to Present)

Wakefield One is an unassuming office building in the city centre, a central hub of local government in the Wakefield district. It is also plagued with design issues, trapping cold air inside the structure and making it a miserable place to work, unless your fridge has packed up and you need somewhere to keep your dinner. Many workers say this is the coldest building they have ever worked in, no small feat given that most teams transferred in from a mixture of damp-filled 19th Century heritage stock and dilapidated '70s offices.

Inside the structure, banks of desks are allocated to teams, with some teams less privileged than others. Workers are at the mercy of vent locations and wind draught paths. Many wear coats, scarves, hats and blankets indoors. Some even try to type in gloves. Hot water bottles run the risk of seizure but are quietly tolerated by managers to keep order. Electric radiators...

...and fan heaters are strictly prohibited. Ventilation fans blast people with cold air from outside but blocking them is forbidden. Regular patrols ensure strict compliance.

Distant promises were made by management to address the problems of the building being cold inside, though most have since been forgotten or quietly scrubbed from existence, with few changes since. Some still remember the 2017-18 Building User Group discussion where it was mentioned it would be picked up as a major capital project, but to even talk of it now carries risks.

The current regime appears to use a basic form of mental conditioning. If we pretend the building is fine, then people will think the building is fine. We don't talk about the building being cold, because the building isn't cold. If somebody thinks they are cold, they need to start thinking they are not cold. Everyone wears snow boots indoors - we always did. This is normal. This was always normal. Do you understand?

Yet, the resistance continues...

-Harry Masden



ORGANISING MEMBERS

For members that are unaware, **UNISON** has a number of Self Organized Groups that operate at all levels of the union. These groups are a great way of: becoming more involved with **UNISON**, making a difference in YOUR workplace and ensuring that **UNISON** is fighting for issues that are important to **YOU**. In Wakefield we currently have a Retired Members SOG, however regionally and nationally there are SOGs for Black Members, Women, LGBT+ Members, Disabled Members and Young Members. If joining an existing SOG or starting one up in Wakefield is something **you** are interested in, please get in contact with us at the branch.

UNISON is **YOU** and our strength is in numbers. If you have any colleagues that aren't a member of **UNISON** yet, please encourage them to join with the QR code, not only for their protection in the workplace, but to increase **YOUR** collective bargaining powers. If you fancy helping your colleagues more; by becoming a steward or workplace contact, please get in touch with us at the branch.

Join here ----->
Call us: 01924305360



PLEASE make sure that the details we hold for you are correct, this is the only way we can get in contact with you if you need our support! Or to inform you of upcoming events, demonstrations & days out. You can do this here:
my.unison.org.uk
01924 305360
contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk

WMDC Convenor Team



Sam Greenwood
Branch Secretary



Dave Evans
Branch Co-Chairperson



Adam Temple
Communications Officer



Ken's Corner

Member: Ken, I have just put in my notice to retire and i was wondering whether UNISON will be able to support me if I develop any health issues from my 40 years on the tools?

Ken: Absolutely, all you have to do is call UNISON on 01924 305360 and the helpful admin staff will let you know what you need to do to change your membership to become a retired member. This will allow UNISON to support and represent you in the future, if you need it, plus the retired member's Secretary organises all sorts of events and days out that you will be eligible to attend. It is FREE to continue your membership as a retired member.

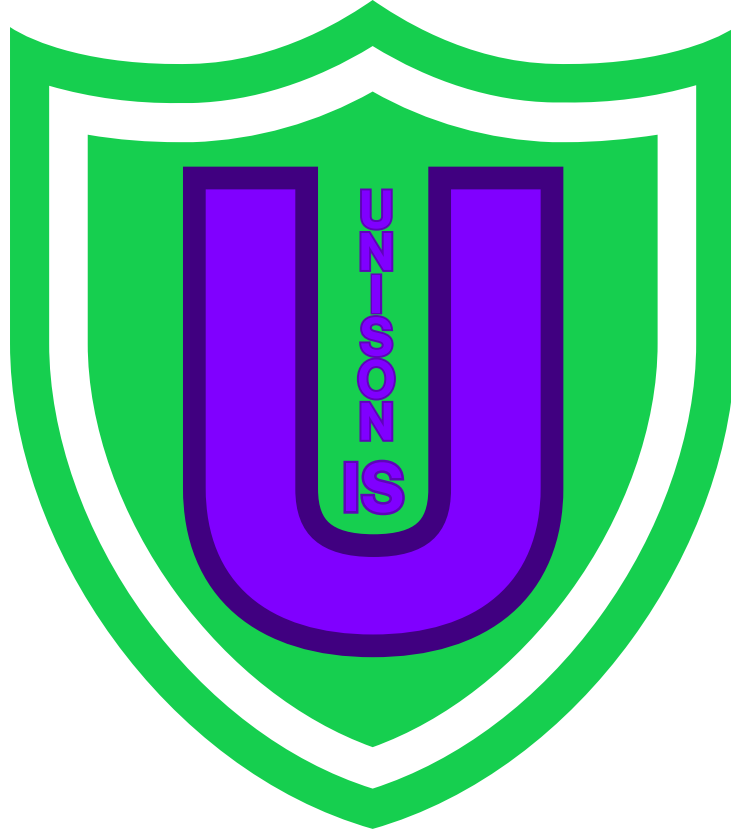
Member: Dear Ken, I've put in for voluntary redundancy, I was just wondering if the council will pay up my pension as though I was retiring at 67? I'm currently 57

Ken: Hey, this is a really good question and there has been a lot of misinformation about it. The council are NOT making up the pensions for folk who take Voluntary Redundancy, there will be no reduction in your pension but also NO ENHANCEMENT to it. But it's worth bearing in mind that you have only expressed an interest in voluntary redundancy and that means if you change your mind you can withdraw your interest at anytime.

Member: Hi Ken, I was at work recently and a member of the public started shouting and swearing at me about council tax going up. I told my boss and they said "You're a council worker, its part of your job". I just wanted to see if this is acceptable.

Ken: I'm really sorry to hear that you faced that from a member of the public. It is absolutely unacceptable to be receiving any form of verbal or physical assault at anytime, and especially not when you are working. You need to fill in an accident form and formally report it to your service AND get in contact with UNISON so that we can support you.

If **you** have any questions for Ken's Corner about workplace issues, please email contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk



The shield protecting workers from: Job Cuts, Unfair Dismissals, Unreasonable Sickness Targets, Victimisation and so much more!

But UNISON needs YOU!

To keep protecting Worker's Rights we need a strong unified membership and activists in workplaces.

Become Active TODAY and help YOUR union to keep doing what WE do BEST!

**Wakefield UNISON: 01924 305360
contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk**

