

23 June 2020

Dear Rehana, Jon, and Jim,

Thank you for your letter regarding this year's NJC pay negotiations, and the decision of the LGA Executive Advisory Board to reject the recommendation from the National Employers to make representations to the government for a special pay award.

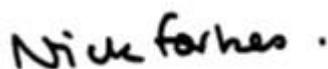
Local government workers have worked exceptionally hard during the pandemic, often putting their own health at risk to ensure that people who rely on our vital public services were not let down. Whether caring for the elderly and vulnerable, providing food to the shielded, or keeping refuse collections going, council workers have proved invaluable. The LGA Labour Group was unanimous in our belief that it would have been right and fair for the government to go beyond merely clapping their appreciation, and recognise their service with an exceptional pay award in addition to the 2.75% pay increase that local government employers offered.

We were therefore pleased that the National Employers recommended that the LGA make representations to the government on this matter, and share your frustration and disappointment that this was rejected by the LGA Executive Advisory Board. The vote was held following a heated debate during a confidential session, and so we are unable to reveal how other group's representatives voted. However we can confirm that all Labour members of the LGA Executive Advisory Board voted to support your proposal to make a joint approach to the government to fund a special payment.

In the last decade of austerity local government funding has been cut by over 60p in every pound, and now the government is failing to meet its own pledge to support councils to do 'whatever it takes' to fight coronavirus. The LGA Labour Group will continue to campaign for better and fairer funding for councils, and we remain committed to working with our friends and colleagues in the trade union movement to secure the pay that your members deserve.

Please pass on our thanks to your members for their exceptional hard work over the last few months.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Forbes".

Nick Forbes
Leader of the LGA Labour Group