

Sarah Messenger
Head of Workforce
Local Government Association
Local Government House
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19 March 2014

Dear Sarah

**JNC for Local Authority Chief Executives
PAY CLAIM 2014**

I write further to my letter of 18 November 2013, in which ALACE put the LGA on formal notice that our association would be submitting a pay claim for 2014.

It is now five years since local government chief executives were awarded a cost of living pay increase. Since January 2009, the cost of living (CPI) has increased by 16.56%, yet senior local government staff have received nothing.

This year, our members are experiencing an actual cut in their take home pay, as employees' pension contributions are escalated to a new high of 12.5% - compared to the civil service rate of only 6.85%. In addition, changes to the annual and lifetime pension tax allowances are inflicting further punitive reductions in chief officers' take home pay, and forcing many senior staff to abandon the local government pension scheme.

Only last week, the Office of National Statistics published new data in its annual survey of hours and earnings confirming that the public sector continues to lag far behind private employers in remuneration and reward for senior staff. Historically, the public sector "deal" was that staff would be compensated for lower earnings by being given a good pension on retirement - that settlement has been severely eroded. If the local government sector wants to recruit and retain high calibre staff, the LGA must act now to address the pay imbalance.

For the past five years, chief executives and chief officers have been the objects of a deliberate political strategy to suppress senior pay. This has gone on long enough. Local government chief executives are ordinary, hard working people, dedicated to public service, undertaking some of the most challenging and the most vital jobs in the public sector, and facing mounting personal financial pressures and stresses.

It is time for the LGA to demonstrate to senior staff that they are valued and supported, just as much as the rest of the local government staff body. ALACE hereby formally submits a claim for **chief executives and chief officers to receive exactly the same cost of living pay award that is offered to the staff body as a whole.** Moreover, ALACE hereby formally exercises its right to call for a meeting of the JNC to be convened without delay to discuss and consider this pay claim.

Yours sincerely



Mary Pett
Honorary Seretary
ALACE