

National Bargaining News

SALARIES UPDATE SPECIAL

News from EIS/FELA National Reps

INFLATION (RPI) HITS 7.5%!

Those of us of a certain vintage may recall the days when inflation was a serious thing in the UK. **By inflation we mean a general increase in prices leading to a fall in the purchasing power of money.** The chart on the right, tracks inflation and at the far end of the chart we can see the steady increase in prices which has been taking place in the UK over the past few months.

Most FELA members main source of income is their salary and with inflation (RPI) raging at 7.5% according to the UK Office for National Statistics, unless there is an increase in salary levels then FELA members like others across society are facing a serious reduction in their purchasing power, to put it bluntly without a pay rise you will be significantly poorer.

The BBC refers to another measure of inflation CPI which it tells us is running at 5.4%, a 30 year high, and warns that price surges are set to go even higher.

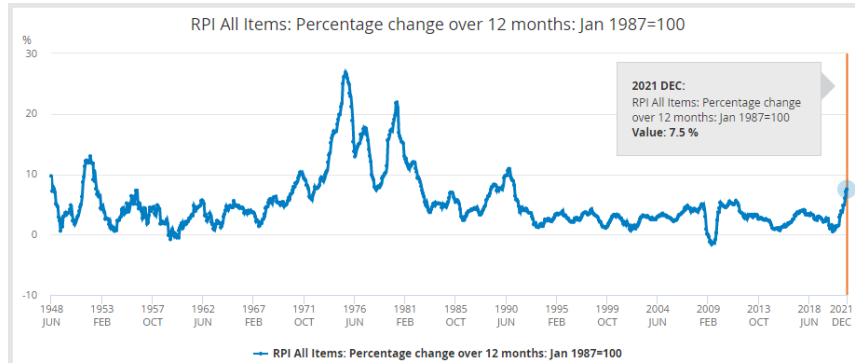
Surging food prices push inflation to 30-year high

By Robert Plummer
Business reporter, BBC News
© 30 hours ago



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-60050699>

UK ONS—RPI All Items: Percentage change over 12 months: Jan 1987=100



While you face a reduction in your purchasing power, you have also been facing a significant increase in your workload.

This double whammy means that unless you gain a decent pay increase you are expected to dramatically increase your workload at the same time as you are facing a real terms cut in pay.

Colleges Scotland are offering an £850 per annum increase in pay, plus a one off “thank you” payment of £150 for all of your efforts over the past two years of the pandemic.

Your national reps have rejected the £850 as inadequate and in the face of increasing inflation has urged Colleges Scotland to improve upon this offer. We have also made it clear to Colleges Scotland that the one off payment is likely to be seen by many of you as an insult considering the enormous effort which you have had to put in over the past two years.

To date they have resisted, and we now want to hear your views. **Your national reps think that their views reflect your views on this issue,** however we are seeking your views on the £850 offer.

Do you wish to accept this offer or reject the offer?

Your National Executive urges you to reject the offer and asks you to complete the survey on this as soon as it arrives in your inbox.

You should receive an email from the EIS this week, please respond ASAP.

Finally, some people may ask, can we afford to pay public service workers more?

Just have a gander at the following articles.

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/ten-richest-men-double-their-fortunes-pandemic-while-incomes-99-percent-humanity>

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/jul/12/uk-wealth-gap-widens-in-pandemic-as-richest-get-50000-windfall>

Look out for the survey in your inbox and

REJECT THE 850 PITTANCE