

A Day in the Life of a Janitor

Today our focus is on Rab who works for the City of Edinburgh Council as a janitor. Rab (real name changed to protect anonymity) has worked for the Authority for over 15 years, 25 hours a week and his weekly earnings are a mere £240 **nearly half of the UK's average wage*. Once again, Unite is demonstrating how local government workers should be highly valued instead of low paid.**

Give a brief description of your work

I work 5 hours a day – those hours are flexible for the Employer. I open up my workplace, make sure the rooms are safe and set up properly as directed by those using the facilities. I also shut and secure the premises.

Do you believe you have job security?

No - the way things are going everyone should be concerned. I don't think any council job is safe. Thankfully I am heading towards retirement but anyone below the age of 50 must be really worried.

Do you feel at risk of COVID-19?

Yes, as facilities open and we have to return to work, I think we will all be vulnerable. I have no idea the background or lifestyle habits those using my workplace have and I am expected to trust they are behaving responsibly. My employer wants things to return to what they were pre-COVID.

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Do you think you will be exposing your family to danger?

Yes – and if I bring the CoronaVirus home, I could give it to my wife and children. That's a horrible thought.

What Support did you receive from your Employer?

I can't think of any support I got. I had to phone my manager to keep in touch with work during the whole of lockdown. Never once did they contact or agree to contact me.

Do you think you are adequately paid?

No - with the amount of hassle I receive from my Employer I deserve a decent pay rise. The treatment my colleagues and I receive is shocking. I find it hard to get motivated and question on a daily basis is it worth getting up!

***Average wage in UK is £31,830**

Next Steps

Very shortly, Unite will be issuing a survey **to all members** via email to find out your opinion on what your pay claim should be. It is vital that **you** take part in this as we need the fullest possible view of what the members want.

Are Your Details Up-To-Date?

Check your details and membership online. To do this click on <https://myunite.unitetheunion.org/login> - this will give you full sight of the information Unite holds for you. This also allows you to update your details.

If you are aware of any of your colleagues who would want a say in their pay claim, forward this newsletter and encourage them to join a union – encourage them to join Unite. They can do this easily by going to <https://join.unitetheunion.org/>

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