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TUC welcomes Labour's new industrial strategy

The UK will take a “more muscular approach to government” under Labour, according to a new industrial strategy, published on 23 June, that portrays the world as more volatile but also full of opportunity for British business.

The government has identified eight sectors – the IS-8 – that it judges have the highest potential for economic growth. They are: advanced manufacturing, the creative industries, life sciences, clean energy, defence, digital and technology businesses (including artificial intelligence and quantum computing), financial services such as banking and insurance, and professional services such as accounting and the legal profession.

Those sectors will receive the bulk of government industrial support, whether that is through cheaper energy prices, trade support or skills training.

The **TUC** believes that the strategy is a significant step towards a world in which the UK can make the cars, medicines and films of the future.

In a world where other countries race ahead to grow crucial technologies, the UK's manufacturing industries in particular have been stuck in first gear, kept back by the failures of successive Tory governments to plan ahead, provide stable and competitive electricity prices and properly resource the adult skills system. As the foreword to the new Strategy notes:

“When our industries were at the mercy of change, too many people and communities were left to fend for themselves, with government uninterested in providing a bridge to the future.”

The new Industrial Strategy – laying out how government will support the growth of eight key industries, from advanced manufacturing to clean energy to creative industries – can be the foundation for the bridge to the future. To a stronger, fairer economy – one where more things are made in Britain by workers who are properly trained, fairly paid and respected for what they do. Much remains to still be done – but here are four key elements of the strategy that have a real potential to bring good jobs back to towns and cities across the UK.

Read more at: <https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/four-big-wins-workers-new-industrial-strategy>

Financial Times coverage at: <https://www.ft.com/uk-industrial-strategy>

Unite members reject local government pay offer

Local authority workers who are members of **Unite** have overwhelmingly voted to reject this year's pay offer of 3.2 per cent. They join the **GMB** who has also rejected the offer. **UNISON** recommended their members to reject the offer. Their consultative ballot closed on 20 June and the result is expected shortly.

Council workers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were offered the increase from 1 April 2025, which was tabled by national employers without any negotiation with unions. However, 84 per cent of **Unite** members in local authorities have rejected it in a consultative ballot.

Following discussions with sister unions in the local authority sector who were consulting at the same time, **Unite** could now hold ballots for industrial action which could take place from late summer.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: *"Local government workers have had years of real terms pay cuts and this offer has completely failed to address that.*

*"Council workers must not be made to pay the price for a funding crisis in local government that is not of their making and **Unite** will back them all the way in their fight for fair pay."*

The pay offer has been made against a backdrop of swingeing cuts to local council services and budgets, which has led to local government workers seeing their pay decrease by around 30 per cent in real terms since 2010.

More at: <https://www.unitetheunion.org/news-events/news/2025/june/council-workers-overwhelmingly-vote-to-reject-this-year-s-pay-offer>

Newcastle bus services under threat

Bus services in Newcastle upon Tyne could be seriously affected as almost 500 bus workers including drivers are being balloted on taking strike action. **Unite** members work for Busways Travel Services, part of the Stagecoach North East group, at two major depots in the city - Slatyford and Walkergate. The majority of passenger bus services to and from Newcastle city centre operate from these depots meaning any strike will be extremely disruptive.

While no formal pay offer has been made by Stagecoach to **Unite** members, shop stewards have been unofficially offered a below inflation 3.3% pay rise providing they recommended that members accepted. This is substantially less than **Unite** is seeking for its members at Stagecoach.

In a recent consultative ballot, 98 per cent of **Unite** members at the depots stated that they would be willing to strike over pay. The strike ballot closes on July 15 and if it is successful strikes would take place between August and January.

Figures from last year showed Stagecoach recorded a total operating profit of £51.1m, up from £33.1m, and a profit before taxation of £47.6m.

More at: <https://www.unitetheunion.org/news-events/news/2025/june/bus-services-across-newcastle-under-threat-as-workers-ballot-for-strikes-over-pay>

UCU defeats sacking threat at Newcastle University after 44 strike days

On 20 June the **University and College Union (UCU)** celebrated as it defeated the threat of compulsory redundancies at Newcastle University. Newcastle University management confirmed to staff it will not be making any compulsory redundancies. The announcement came as Newcastle **UCU** members downed tools for their 44th day of strike action in their long running dispute.

Members have been striking over management's threat to make around £35m of cuts and its refusal to rule out compulsory redundancies.

UCU general secretary Jo Grady said: 'I want to congratulate every single **UCU** member who has stood firm on the picket line and demanded Newcastle University management rule out compulsory redundancies. After 44 long days of strike action, you have shown Newcastle University bosses, as well as vice-chancellors across the country, that whenever they try to make staff pay the price for a failed funding model and poor financial management, we will fight relentlessly to force them to change course.

'Every senior university manager from across the UK now needs to look at what our members have achieved in Newcastle and heed the warning: work with us to save jobs and protect student provision or you will face sustained disruption.'

Big win for outsourced workers

PCS members employed by outsourced giants OCS, G4S and ISS in several buildings on the Government Property Agency contract have voted to accept full and final pay offers in a significant win to their long running disputes.

The disputes involved outsourced security workers, cleaners, caterers, porters, receptionists, maintenance operatives and post-room staff.

The offers came as a result of an extended period of heroic and determined industrial action by the members who were determined and resolute in their fight for decent pay, terms and conditions.

The ballots which closed on 9 June delivered decisive votes in favour of accepting the settlement which increases pay and significantly improves terms and conditions, including the implementation of company sick pay from day one of absence, an increase in annual leave entitlement, full maternity and paternity pay and paid bereavement leave.

More at: <https://www.pcs.org.uk/news-events/news/groundbreaking-win-pcs-facilities-management-members>

Action for recognition

PCS members working for pensions administrator MyCSP are to take 6 weeks' strike action from 7 July in support of their campaign for full union recognition.

The 156 members, whose roles include pension administrators, senior pension administrators, telephony administrators, administration roles, team leaders and managers [voted overwhelmingly in favour of taking industrial](#) action and will now strike on the following dates: 7-11 July, 14-18 July, 21-25 July, 28 July-1 August, 4-8 August, 11-15 August.

MyCSP has refused to recognise **PCS** and engage the union in formal consultation in the TUPE transfer process ahead of the transfer of the Civil Service Pension Scheme (CSPS) contract from MyCSP Ltd to Capita on 1 December. The strike will affect offices in Liverpool and Cheadle Hulme.

More at: <https://www.pcs.org.uk/news-events/news/6-week-strike-announced-mycsp>

Strike action gets big 'Yes' vote

PCS members at the energy regulator OFGEM have voted overwhelmingly for strike action in a dispute over pay, jobs, working conditions and industrial relations.

On a turnout of 65%, smashing the undemocratic 'threshold' for action, 85% of members voted 'yes' for strike action. This is a resounding result, demonstrating the members' depth of feeling and resolve.

Members have called time on OFGEM's failure to fix pay in the organisation, on its refusal to provide reassurances on jobs and on its lack of regard for the agreements it makes with their union.

With this new mandate now on the table, **PCS** now expects serious responses from OFGEM to resolve all the issues in dispute.

PCS General Secretary Fran Heathcote said: "Our members in OFGEM have made their feelings very clear. It's now up to their employer to respond positively. We want to resolve this dispute without industrial action. If they do need to take action, however, our members will have the full support of the national union to do whatever is necessary."

More at: <https://www.pcs.org.uk/news-events/news/resounding-turnout-yes-vote-ofgem-strike-ballot>

Senior doctors to be balloted

The **BMA** is appealing to the Government to negotiate as it announces indicative ballots of senior doctors in England over their recent pay offer.

Following May's announcement of a 4% pay increase, the **BMA's** consultants committee and SAS (specialist, associate specialist and specialty doctors) committee both entered dispute with the Government and wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care calling for him to meet for negotiations.

With no reply from the Secretary of State, the **BMA** will launch indicative ballots of consultants – including those from public health and medical academia - and SAS members on 21 July, asking whether they are willing to take industrial action. The ballots will close on 1 September.

Meanwhile resident doctors (formerly junior doctors) in England are being balloted for renewed industrial action after the Government failed to make an offer which would move them towards pay restoration. The ballot closes on 7 July 2025.

Support the Durham Miners' Gala



Photo Barry White NUJ

The **139th Durham Miners' Gala** will take place on **Saturday 12 July 2025**. Hosted by the Durham Miners' Association (DMA) since 1871, the Gala is billed as the world's greatest celebration of community, international solidarity, and working class life. It is a unique and inspiring spectacle, with many thousands of former miners, trade unionists and their families joining marching bands from former collieries in the traditional march to the racecourse.

More at:

https://www.friendsofdurhamminersgala.org/gala_information

It's a great day.

Latest news from TUC North East, Yorkshire & Humber Region

You can sign up for the TUC NE, Y&H newsletter, for latest news, campaigns and events and to receive email updates at: <https://www.tuc.org.uk/neyh/stay-connected>

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Bradford UCU strike action

Information from **Bradford UCU** - please support if you can:

The branch will be picketing Monday 30th June 08:00-11:00 with a rally afterwards 11:30-12:30. We have also scheduled strike action for:

- Monday 7th July
- Tuesday 8th July
- Thursday 10th July
- Friday 11th July
- Monday 21st – Friday 25th July inclusive.

We will be picketing 08:00-12:00 on each of these days.

[Leaflet for sharing](#)