

Thank you for your email.

I am taking part in strike action, declared by UNISON, on **Thursday 24 November and Friday 25 November**.

UNISON members at King's consider the strike to be an absolute last resort after our employers (Universities UK) failed to resolve this dispute. We are taking industrial action for the following demands:

1. With the cost of fuel, food and energy jumping up, **we can't afford less than an inflation-busting pay rise of at least RPI+2%** and an end to poverty pay in higher education. RPI is currently at 12.3% so our claim is for a 14.3% increase.
2. Our employers to **focus on career development, progression issues and training opportunities** for staff
3. **Ending pay injustice** on ethnicity, gender and disability pay gaps
4. **An end to excessive workloads** and unpaid work
5. **Action to tackle stress** in the workplace
6. **Elimination of precarious employment practices** and casualised contracts.

UNISON represents Professional Services staff across the university; the people who keep us safe, keep the university clean, help us access resources, offer us help and advice and set up our courses (and more!).

We are experiencing a cost-of-living crisis at a time our employer is making record profits and holds a growing surplus. KCL had £1billion in income last year and has made over £200 million in surplus in the last two years. We are calling for the university to return to negotiations between Universities UK and the trade unions to return with a decent offer and an action plan to support staff.

You can see more and some FAQs here:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/unions/unison/campaigns/nationalpaycampaign> and follow us on social media @KCLUnison

More on the strike:

We encourage everyone to view more information on our Carrd site here:

<https://kclunisonstrike.carrd.co/> which includes a template email for students to send to the Principal.

For professional services staff, please join me in UNISON and on strike for better pay and conditions! You can sign up to UNISON here <https://start.unison.org.uk/about-you>

Optional

Any emails received during the days I have been on strike will be deleted. Please re-send any important information or anything requiring an action.

[Please note that you would have to delete your own messages – this would not happen automatically. If you choose not to include this line, remember that you should not put in any extra time to catch up for work missed during your strike action – colleagues must adjust their expectations accordingly]

