

Mileage Claim

In response to the extremely high rise in motoring costs, UNISON put forward a formal claim for an increase in mileage allowances to:

- 59p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 34p per mile thereafter for users of vehicles up to 1599cc
- the introduction of a rate of 78p per mile for the first 10,000 miles for users of vehicles of 1600cc and above
- an increase of 30% in the value of the exceptional user allowance

The Authority's response to our claim was to offer:

- from September 2008, an increase in Mileage Allowance from 42.5p per mile to 45p per mile for the first 4000 miles. The present rates of 40p per mile from 4001 to 10,000 miles and 25p per mile after 10,000 miles will remain the same.
- to change the way in which the Exceptional User Allowance is paid. Instead of half the allowance being paid twice yearly, the full amount would be paid once a year.
- changes are proposed to the way the Exceptional User Allowance is calculated

Instead of the current system where there is a starting figure which is reduced by each mile travelled up to 5000 miles, a simplified system will be introduced whereby everyone who qualifies for a payment of exceptional user money will receive a fixed annual payment of £230.00 per year.

There was a considerable discussion within the Authority's offer about the way mileage is calculated. However it has been agreed that this will be further discussed in the autumn with no current change in arrangements, so as to concentrate on the immediate issues.

Talks between UNISON and Somerset took place on 1/8/08, when Mileage Allowances were discussed, including training mileage. UNISON verbally presented a claim for this to be brought in line with other mileage. Somerset are currently examining training and travel to training, so more talks on this will be coming in the future.

Unison also raised questions around mileage rates on lease hire vehicles which again, Somerset will reply to, therefore discussions will be ongoing.

On the central issue of Mileage Allowance for employees conducting visits on behalf of the authority the offer received is substantially less than the amounts in our claim. It is unlikely any further rise in the Authority's offer can be gained by negotiation.

The only alternative to accepting the new terms and conditions would be for employees to withdraw their vehicles for work purposes. This would be achieved by individual members, who wish to withdraw their car, **writing to their managers and giving three months notice of their intention to withdraw their vehicles from work use.**

Unless it is specified in your contract of employment, you are not obliged to use your vehicle on Council business. Therefore it is open to members to give notice that

they will withdraw their vehicles from work use. If sufficient numbers of employees take this action, hopefully it will cause the authority to reconsider its position.