
Branch Elections February 2025

Branch elections have been held, in accordance with UNISON rules, the contested posts are below, along with election statements and voting slips. Voting opens at 1200 noon on 19th February, closing at 1200 noon on 12th March 2025. Please either complete a paper form and send to Kevin Fairfax, union office, Springhill1, Brindley Way, Wakefield, WD2 OXQ or email to yas.unisonvote@nhs.net.

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| South Convenor  |
| Simon Stead  |
| Dear Members.I have been involved with Unison for many years as a Station Rep, Convenor and Unison’s Lead on rotas. I have excellent negotiation and communication skills and gained vast amounts of knowledge and experience in policies, procedures and representing members at all grades with good outcomes for all concerned.  The NHS is under extreme pressure and as every year passes this appears to be increasing. I want to stop any privatisation within the Ambulance Service and wider NHS and maintain and improve our terms and conditions and working practices. I am passionate about improving work life balance for all staff.  We also need to listen to our members of what’s important to them and feedback concerns at local and national level. I am always available to speak face to face, via e mail and phone no matter what time or day it is. I also promise to represent you to the best of my ability to achieve satisfactory outcomes for all members.  I would like to thank you all for your support over the last year and together we can make a difference. Thank you Simon.  |
| Shaun Hobson  |
| Dear membersFirst of all, I would state that I believe in a member led branch and promise that if elected I will continue to represent all our members regardless of race, Gender, sexual orientation, job role or political persuasion to the very best of my ability.I am vastly experienced in this role and have successfully supported our members from all sectors at Disciplinary hearings, sickness hearings, as well as a wide variety of other issues. I am also proactive in recruiting new members and new stewards and have recently helped devise training sessions for new stewards.I am an experienced negotiator and have been involved in negotiating.PTS Issues.Payroll Issues.Rotas.Facilities.Meal breaks.I pledge to continue working to engage members and encouraging them to take an active part in discussions around Branch policies and procedures by organising regular monthly meetings on each south station. I have worked for UNISON for over Thirty Years as steward, Convenor and Branch chair, my passion to support our members remains the same as my first day in the role and please remember my phone is always on day or night.Thank you for your supportShaun |
| Dan Cooper  |
| Hi, my name is Dan Cooper and I'm running for South Convenor and Health and Safety Officer. I am running on a campaign of progressive change for the branch. I believe that though our branch has achieved some great things, we need to look to the future and empower members and stewards, to enable them to have as much say in decision-making as possible I think we should be communicating with members in a more modern and transparent way, helping you get a better understanding of how your union works. You deserve more feedback and access to meetings so you can see why and how decisions are being made. I would also like to re-organise the South, providing more steward development and opportunities for members and reps to become involved in shaping the way your union represents you. I have already had the privilege of representing many of you when you have needed support. Being elected as a Convenor and Health and Safety Lead would allow me more time to do that consistently to get you the best outcomes. Vote for me and I will continue to strive for a more member-led union with stronger communication. Thanks. Dan Cooper |

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| South Health and Safety Lead  |
| Maria Clarry  |
| My name is Maria Clarry. I have served as a UNISON steward for the last 3 years and last year was proud to have been voted, by you the members, as your health and safety lead for south.  Last year was a learning curve and whilst having undertaken studies to help represent the members of UNISON as well as I can having only just starting with health and safety at YAS, this last year I have been tackling issues that matter to staff in all areas of south from DSE assessment's in EOC to training issues on PTS.A big part of what I have been working for is staff safety and welfare, I have been liaising with various Unison stewards to find safer ways for staff working, from body-worn camera issues to campaigning for police presence where there is concern for the safety of UNISON members when on scene with violent/potentially violent situations, this work is just getting started and I would love the opportunity to continue to serve you all in this area.By voting for me I promise I will always fight for what really matters to UNISON members for all things Health and safety related. |
| Dan Cooper  |
| I think we should be communicating with members in a more modern and transparent way, helping you get a better understanding of how your union works. You deserve more feedback and access to meetings so you can see why and how decisions are being made. I would also like to re-organise the South, providing more steward development and opportunities for members and reps to become involved in shaping the way your union represents you. I have already had the privilege of representing many of you when you have needed support. Being elected as a Convenor and Health and Safety Lead would allow me more time to do that consistently to get you the best outcomes. Vote for me and I will continue to strive for a more member-led union with stronger communication. Thanks. Dan Cooper |

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| Communications Lead  |
| Diane Redmond  |
| My name is Diane Redmond, I am seeking your support for election into the Branch Communications Officer post.As a Branch we strive to communicate via multiple methods, with the aim of disseminating information to members and stewards swiftly and accurately. We have built our social media presence immensely in recent times, with regular postings and updates, both on Facebook and Blusesky, with fantastic engagement from members and UNISON and health Branches both locally and nationally, with recent posts commanding 229k reaches. We intend to build on this communication success, using methods the WARMS UNISON email system, social media messages and remote access to office voicemails to increase responsiveness when working remotely. I am currently setting up a new email subscription system, where members opt in to receive information and email updates, this will be linked to the new, updated website which is currently under construction, with links to social media and National UNISON updates, all designed to comply with GDPR regulations, where members can easily find information and are in control of their communication preferences. Thank you for taking the time to read this statement.  |
| Tristian Metcalfe |
| Those of you who know me know I like to chat, so I know the value of good communication. I’d love to bang on here about all the great work the branch has been doing for its members, but I’ve only got 200 words. If you elect me as Communications Officer, though, I could tell you all about it. I’ve got plans to set up a monthly newsletter keeping you all in the loop about what we’re up to and how you can get involved. And believe it or not, I know listening is at least as important as talking, and I want to give our members more ways to be heard. I’ve already helped push for a new branch website and I’ll be looking to use that to make it easier than ever for you to make suggestions, have your say on what we’re doing and how we do it, as well as get answers to your most common questions and find and contact local reps. But I can’t do it without your help, so if you want to get in on the conversation, throw me a vote and let’s get people talking!  Tristan Metcalfe |

To vote for the candidate of your choice, please put an ‘x’ in the box next to the name, adding your membership number or name to make the vote valid. Or email yas.unisonvote@nhs.net with the name of the candidate of choice, position you are voting for and your name or membership number (votes will be invalid without name/membership number, these will not be disclosed to the participants**). There are two posts for the south convenor role so two votes can be cast.**

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| South Convenor  | Vote (please place X in relevant box) |
| Simon Stead  |  |
| Shaun Hobson  |  |
| Dan Cooper  |  |

**(Only staff based in the South can vote for this post- there are 2 positions)**

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| South H&S Lead  | Vote (please place X in relevant box) |
| Maria Clarry |  |
| Dan Cooper  |  |

**(Only staff based in the South can vote for this post)**

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| Communications Lead  | Vote (please place X in relevant box) |
| Diane Redmond |  |
| Tristan Metcalfe  |  |

**(All members can vote for this post)**

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| Voters Name or membership number  | Workplace/station  |
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