UNISON Cymru Wales Cost-of-Living survey – school support staff respondents

**Introduction**

The cost-of-living crisis has placed people in some very difficult positions and school support staff and their families are hurting.

This Autumn, UNISON Cymru Wales surveyed members across all the sectors we represent to gain a detailed understanding of how people are being impacted. A staggering 6,000 people took part, of which, 1,444 work in schools. The results presented here are unsettling and illustrate that both the Welsh government and the UK government most offer greater support to school support staff workers.

**Number of UNISON Cymru Wales school support staff members responding to this survey: 1,444 people.**

1.Thinking about the cost-of-living crisis, approximately, how much extra per month have your/your family living costs increased by?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Less than £200 | 11.7% | 169 |
| £201-£300 | 47.2% | 682 |
| £301-£400 | 27.5% | 397 |
| £401 -£500 | 9.6% | 139 |
| More than £500 | 3.9% | 57 |
|  | Totals | 1,444 |

2.Which of the following have you done over the last six months because of the cost-of-living crisis? Tick as many you wish

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Action | Percent | Count |
| Reduced your supermarket shop | 86.8% | 1,253 |
| Reduced family activities | 72.3% | 1,043 |
| Reduced socialising with friends | 77.9% | 1,124 |
| Minimised car usage | 63.5% | 917 |
| Cancelled TV subscriptions | 45.5% | 657 |
| Gone without meals | 15.8% | 228 |
| Worked more hours | 21.8% | 315 |
| Used a payday loan company | 2.8% | 40 |
| Asked for financial support from family or friends | 21.9% | 316 |
| Used a foodbank | 5.5% | 80 |
| Downsized/moved to a less expensive home | 1.9% | 28 |
| Remortgaged your home | 2.1% | 30 |
| Used a debt advice service | 4.6% | 67 |
| Applied to UNISON Welfare | 0.5% | 7 |
| Pawned possessions | 4.7% | 68 |
| Made a new claim for benefits/universal credit | 5.0% | 72 |
| None of the above | 3.0% | 43 |

3.Have you been able to afford a summer holiday this year?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Yes | 18.6% | 268 |
| No | 61.5% | 887 |
| Scaled-back holiday | 20.0% | 288 |
|  | Totals | 1,443 |

4.Are you considering leaving for a better paid job?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Yes, but not very seriously | 29.9% | 432 |
| Yes, very seriously | 36.0% | 519 |
| No, I am not considering leaving | 34.1% | 492 |
|  | Totals | 1,443 |

5.Does the Westminster government understand the severity of the cost-of-living crisis?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Yes | 3.5% | 50 |
| No | 96.5% | 1,393 |
|  | Totals | 1,443 |

6.Do you see yourself/your family having to make enquiries or applying for in-work benefits in the near future to be able to meet the increase in your/your family living costs?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Yes | 51.3% | 740 |
| No | 48.7% | 703 |
|  | Totals | 1,443 |

7.How do you feel about your personal/family finances over the next six months?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Positive | 1.0% | 14 |
| Neutral | 8.7% | 125 |
| Concerned | 62.9% | 908 |
| Scared | 27.4% | 396 |
|  | Totals | 1,443 |

8.Has the cost-of-living crisis negatively impacted on your mental health?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Yes, a little | 58.8% | 849 |
| Yes, significantly | 29.2% | 421 |
| No | 12.0% | 173 |
|  | Totals | 1,443 |

9.To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statement: I am able to concentrate at work without worrying about my finances

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Percent | Count |
| Strongly disagree | 10.1% | 146 |
| Disagree | 34.9% | 503 |
| Neutral/Don't know | 31.7% | 457 |
| Agree | 20.2% | 291 |
| Strongly agree | 3.2% | 46 |
|  | Totals | 1,443 |