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|  | |  | | --- | | Dear colleague,  New laws introduced by the Westminster government mean that any ballot for strike or other industrial action needs a turn out of more than 50% in order to enable the union to take action.  Such thresholds do not exist in any other walk of life least of all in the election of the very MPs who passed this unfair law.  However this law is now a fact of life for unions and I want to explain what UCU intends to do in response.  Firstly we are of course taking steps to improve turnout and ensure that when members vote for action they are able to take it.  We will be supporting branches to put in place detailed turnout plans, and they will no doubt enlist your help to ensure that everyone is aware of the need to vote.  We will also be introducing an 'I've voted' button to every email we send you during a ballot. Once you have voted, please click this to let us know. This will enable us to focus our attention on members who have not yet voted and to keep a tally of how the ballot is progressing. Using this button will not tell us how you have voted, only that you have voted and I hope you can understand why we are doing it.  Taking industrial action should always be a last resort. However the union is determined that when action is necessary in order to protect your position, we will clear the legal hurdles necessary - however unjust and unfair they are.  Thank you for your support.  Sally Hunt UCU general secretary | |