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**HE pay and equality dispute**  
  
At a special sector conference on pay this week, delegates agreed to re-ballot higher education members for industrial action on the union’s claim following [the recent result of the first ballot.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/63038/151504/6924/1/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDkgTm92ZW1iZXIgMjAxOA%3d%3d&x=b1056139) Conference decided that the new ballot would involve all branches but this time on an aggregate basis (all results counted together) and this would take place in the new year and no later than March 2019. We will send out a fuller message to HE members on next steps next week.  
  
**FE fights back: dispute resolved at Lewisham and Southwark colleges**  
  
The pay dispute at Lewisham and Southwark colleges which saw four days of strike action in the summer has been resolved with an agreed package of £350 pay rise and a commitment by NCG group to change the way strike pay is deducted in future. Following the [recent ballot of members](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/63038/151504/6921/2/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDkgTm92ZW1iZXIgMjAxOA%3d%3d&x=ceb06d7f) in FE England branches UCU’s further education committee (FEC) has recommended branches that achieved at least a 50% turnout (Bath, Bradford, Croydon, Lambeth, New College Swindon, and Petroc College) should take two days strike action on 28 and 29 November; branches that came close (35% and above) should be re-balloted from 28 November to 19 December; and branches whose ballot turnout was below 35% should hold members' meetings to decide whether to re-ballot.  
  
[See here for the full update including:](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/63038/151504/7054/3/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDkgTm92ZW1iZXIgMjAxOA%3d%3d&x=b32fe03c)

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Best   
  
Justine Stephens   
UCU head of campaigns