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In a [joint statement](#), public service trade unions have called on the government to negotiate on a pay rise for public sector workers. On 14 March the public service minister announced that the index point upon which public sector salaries are based would be increased by the summer. This would be the first increase since February 2017. Public sector unions are calling for a minimum and immediate increase of around 4% to compensate for the current surge in inflation but to allow for negotiations over further increases in response to rising prices and the fall in real value of the index. With only two increases in the index since 2010, there has been a significant erosion of purchasing power in public sector salaries.

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