



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **UNIONS ANNOUNCE ACTION AT NORTH EAST WATER COMPANY**

Trade Unions involved in representing members in Northumbrian Water have issued notice to the Company, to begin their industrial action.

The GMB and Unite after separate ballots of their membership, have called industrial action which will commence next week.

Maxine Bartholomew GMB Regional Organiser said:

"Northumbrian Water call themselves an ethical Company. But they choose to increase the Shareholders' Dividend while proposing Pension Cuts to the workers who make them these massive profits, which according to the Company's last financial statement, Northumbrian Water had a £384 Million Operating Profit. How much profit is enough for this Company?."

"Our members' pensions are spent in the local economy which benefits the North East unlike the Chinese owners who send most of their profits back to Hong Kong".

In addition Pat McCourt, Unite Officer said:

"It's more than 30 years since there has been any industrial action with this Company. The Company is hell bent on forcing our members into taking this industrial action to protect their pensions and their income in retirement. After all pensions are just deferred pay and the Company are cutting that while siphoning off profits abroad".

**-ENDS-**

