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TfL pay rises soared £18.6million over public sector pay cap last year, new figures show

- Staff received 3.2% increase in 2016/17
- Equates to £18.6million more than public sector pay cap
- Staff received substantially more than doctors, teachers and other staff

Staff pay at Transport for London rose £18.6million over the public sector pay cap last year, new figures uncovered by Gareth Bacon AM show.

Workers received a 3.2 per cent annual increase, substantially more than the one per cent cap imposed on other public sector workers like nurses, doctors and teachers.

The figures showed, for example, that a station supervisor on £55,848 would have received a £1,787 increase in 2017 - a huge increase compared to an average nurse who would have received a pay rise of £215 the previous year.

The wages increases were revealed weeks after it emerged taxpayers had also funded a £1.7billion overpayment for TfL staff's so-called 'gold-plated' pensions[1].

They also come at a time when TfL is facing a financial black hole, with increased borrowing on top of the Mayor's £640million partial fares freeze and the £100million Hopper fare.

Commenting, Mr Bacon said: "It is unfair that TfL should get away with handing staff an inflation-busting 3.2 per cent pay rise while other public sector workers abide by the one per cent pay cap.

"These increases cost the taxpayer £18.6million last year and show why pay rises across the public sector need to be carefully managed.

"With inflated wage increases on top of its gold-plated pensions, the unions at TfL are pick-pocketing the taxpayer.

"I would urge the Mayor to address this disparity and bring TfL staff into line with other public sector departments."

ENDS.

Notes

- Gareth Bacon is the GLA Conservatives' group leader and budget spokesman

- [1] Gold-plated pensions unveiled by Keith Prince AM:
<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/tories-call-to-axe-overinflated-taxpayerfunded-289bn-tfl-pension-pot-a3603066.html>

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.

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Examples of TfL salary increases:

- Station Supervisor: £55,848 in 2016; £57,635 in 2017 (**£1,787 increase**)
- Train Operator: £51,329 in 2016; 52,972 in 2017 (**£1,643 increase**)
- Administrator: £31,040 in 2016; £32,033 in 2017 (**£993 increase**)

Other average public sector worker pay (last available year of data)

- Nurse: £31,000 in 2015; £31,215 in 2016 (**£215 increase**)
- Met Police Constable: 24,641 in 2015; 25,269 in 2016 (**£628 increase**)
- Teacher: £35,100 in 2016; £35,451 in 2017 (**£351 increase**)

TfL's wage agreement (obtained by Gareth Bacon from TfL):

London Underground has multi-union single table bargaining arrangements with four trade unions (ASLEF; RMT; TSSA and Unite.) Our last round of pay talks concluded in January 2016 (under the previous Mayor) and we agreed a four year pay deal covering 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2019. The breakdown of this pay agreement is as follows:

- 1 April 2015 - An average increase on Basic Salary of 2 per cent from 1 April 2015 (Comprising of 1 per cent¹ plus, a flat rate of £500 consolidated increase for all grades in recognition of our transformation to a 24-hour passenger service operation)
- 1 April 2016 - RPI₂ or 1 per cent, whichever is the greater.
- 1 April 2017 - RPI₃ or 1 per cent, whichever is the greater.
- 1 April 2018 - RPI₄ plus 0.25 per cent, or 1 per cent whichever is the greater.

At the time of settling the pay deal, all parties anticipated that inflation would be around 1 per cent, hence 'RPI or 1 per cent whichever is the greater.' RPI in February 2017 was 3.2 per cent, which determined the pay increase. The mandate for the negotiating team was approved by the Commissioner, who ensured that City Hall was kept fully informed about the progress on the negotiations.

1 RPI February 2015, published March 2015

2 RPI February 2016, published March 2016

3 RPI February 2017, published March 2017

4 RPI February 2018, published March 2018

The total wage bill for those employees covered by this pay agreement as of the 31 March 2017 was £847,286,702. The cash difference between a 1% increase and a 3.2% increase is as follows:

- 1 per cent increase = £8,472,867
- 3.2 per cent increase = £27,113,174
- Difference = £18,640,307

Previous total wage bills in cash terms are stated in the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2016/17, Page 82.