



NFU: unions' ultimatum incorrectly addressed

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Unions issue ultimatum to the NFU

If the NFU does not comply with the unions' proposal of a wage increase of 3% for all employees by 6 September 2021, there are likely to be actions carried out in the umcs. This demand is in addition to the substantial improvements already formulated by the NFU and the unions. In contrast to what is claimed by the unions in the ultimatum, the NFU and the unions had largely reached agreement on the majority of these substantial issues. The NFU considers collective actions as irresponsible in this phase of catch-up care, and refers the unions to the Cabinet.

NFU refers unions to Cabinet

Karen Kruijthof, director of Amsterdam UMC and cao-negotiator, said, "Issuing an ultimatum to the NFU is not the way to find a solution for the impasse we have been locked in for months. There just isn't the money to provide a wage increase for all employees. To achieve that, additional investments from the government are needed. The unions are well aware of that. We are referring the unions to the Cabinet directly. What are we actively doing? Together with the unions we have prepared a package of improvements to the labour conditions. The unions claim incorrectly in their ultimatum that there is not one point of agreement with the NFU. The substantial improvements are a step in the right direction. We also can and want to create financial leeway to support healthcare professionals in the middle groups. These positions have limited possibilities for salary increases. The work pressure and scarcity are enormous there, and there is a backlog in compensation compared to the market. We continue to call on the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport to implement as soon as possible the motions already adopted by the House of Representatives and not to leave our colleagues out in the cold."

Threatening actions is irresponsible right now

Gabriël Zwart, director of Maastricht UMC+ and cao-negotiator, pointed out the vulnerable situation in the umcs. "Of course, they have a right to carry out action. But due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the umcs are currently facing an immense task to help people on the waiting lists as best and as fast as possible. Many patients have had to wait too long in this past period for their postponed care. While we understand that our colleagues want a wage increase, we cannot cope right now with actions that affect the patients directly. That is why we are calling on the unions to refrain from taking action and to join forces instead."

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Gabriël Zwart added, "Let's urge the Cabinet together to make more government funding available for our employees. It is the Cabinet's move after all."

See also the interview with NFU-chair Margriet Schneider that appeared last week in Zorgvisie:

['Bonden vragen straks actie van groepen die wij juist meeste bieden' - Zorgvisie](#)

Plus an [infographic](#) with improvements targeting compensation, development and vitality.
