



Dear Newsquest member,

We are writing to you with an update on 2017's pay campaign and some interesting information about the remuneration of the company's CEO Henry Faure Walker. It is vital that we work together in our chapels and across chapels to address the poverty-level wages within the group,

Yours sincerely,

Chris Morley, NUJ Northern & Midlands organiser.

Newsquest boss pockets £1.5m as staff denied an across-the-board pay rise for the tenth year running

Newsquest chief executive Henry Faure Walker collected a pay package worth up to a maximum of £1.5 million – the equivalent to hiring 75 newly qualified journalists, according to the latest official figures obtained by the NUJ.

He amassed a total of \$1,718,503 in salary, cash and share bonuses, pension, health and life insurance in 2015 – including \$9,000 (£8,000) for his company car, according to figures filed with the American Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC).

The largesse shown by US parent company Gannett Inc to Mr Faure Walker has continued unabated, just weeks ago he received a New Year's shares handout worth £170,000 (\$205,000).

The disclosure comes as NUJ chapels throughout the group seek to break a corporate stranglehold on staff pay. More than a dozen chapels submitted pay claims in October worth £1,500 to a senior journalist on £20,000. Since then, most have had identical responses from local managers to the union's 12-point submission: "We are not in a position to offer an increase in 2017."

The summary of Mr Faure Walker's "compensation" in the documents filed with the SEC show his basic pay in 2015 was \$474,000 (£400,000); cash bonus of \$352,000 (£297,000); shares bonus worth up to \$720,000 (£607,000) if all performance targets are met; and \$172,000 (£145,000) for pension, health and life insurance, plus a company car.

Local News Matters Week: is your chapel taking part in the union's week of action, from Friday 24 March to Saturday 1 April, to promote the need for quality journalism? Find out more on the NUJ website <https://www.nuj.org.uk/campaigns/local-news-matters-week/>



Solidarity needed in pay claim campaign



Newsquest NUJ chapels are moving together in a bid to force the company to address poverty pay across the group. More than a dozen chapels put in at the same time a 12-point pay demand (worth more than £1,500 to a newly qualified senior) as a down payment on a decade of salary stagnation. Where local managements have responded, it has been only to arrogantly declare that there will be no pay increase this year - and there would be no movement on any of the points that required new money.

Negotiations are now being set up to involve full time union officials to see if there can be a change of heart through more talks. But it is worth remembering that the last across-the-board pay rise for staff took place in 2010 after a number of chapels all balloted for strike action at the same time.

Newsquest fails to post accounts

Wasteful bosses have thrown away at least £15,000 in paying fines for not returning their accounts to Companies House in time – for the second time they have been late in two years. Newsquest Media Group and its holding company, Gannett UK, have failed to meet their statutory obligations yet again with the latest accounts for 2015 having been due to have been made public by 30th September 2016, at the latest. At the time of writing they were still not available some 15 weeks late.

Unfortunately for the company, there is a sliding scale of automatic penalties for late filing which are doubled if they are late in consecutive business years – which they now are. As well as the two group companies, there are others such as Newsquest Midlands South and Newsquest Yorkshire and North East which were posted late and have incurred penalty fees. We don't know why the company's accounts are so badly delayed, but we do know that it is clocking up a big fines bill and this is putting pressure on incompetent directors to make even more job cuts.