

Pay deals to match inflation are unaffordable, minister warns as strikes loom

Public sector pay rises in line with soaring inflation are “unaffordable”, [Transport Secretary Mark Harper](#) has said, raising the chances of a winter of strikes going ahead.

The Cabinet minister said on Sunday there “simply isn’t the money” to meet the demands of workers preparing to take industrial action.

[Nurses](#) are set to stage their first-ever UK-wide strike action next month, as they join transport and postal workers on the picket lines in disputes over pay and conditions.

Mr Harper told Sky’s [Sophy Ridge](#) on Sunday programme: “Inflation matching or inflation busting pay rises are unaffordable.

“I think we want to try and give all the workers in the public sector who work very hard decent pay rises, but they can’t be inflation-busting pay rises.

Read More

- [UK train strike to spark weekend travel disruption](#)
- [Fresh strike by train drivers to cause more travel disruption](#)
- [Harper talks ‘positive’ says Lynch but RMT ‘no closer’ to calling off strikes](#)
- SPONSORED

[Why Budapest is the ideal spa break holiday](#)

“There simply isn’t the money to pay for those given the context, we haven’t seen those in the private sector either, the private sector pay rises have generally been settled below the level of inflation, which I accept is difficult for people.”