

EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF LESOTHO

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Examinations Council of Lesotho: Ensuring Quality Education Assessment in Lesotho

The **Examinations Council of Lesotho** (ECL) plays a pivotal role in the education sector of Lesotho by overseeing the administration, management, and certification of national examinations. As the key authority responsible for maintaining the integrity and standardization of academic assessments, the ECL ensures that students across the country are evaluated fairly and accurately, fostering a culture of excellence in education.

Overview of the Examinations Council of Lesotho

What is the Examinations Council of Lesotho?

The Examinations Council of Lesotho is a statutory body established to oversee the administration of examinations at various levels within Lesotho's education system. Its primary responsibilities include setting examination timetables, developing question papers, overseeing examination logistics, and certifying student achievements.

Mission and Vision

- Mission: To provide reliable, credible, and valid assessments that promote academic excellence and support national development.
- Vision: To be recognized as a leading examination body committed to integrity, transparency, and quality in education assessment.

Legal Framework

The ECL operates under the Education Act of Lesotho, which grants it the authority to develop examination policies, regulate examination conduct, and enforce standards.

Key Functions of the Examinations Council of Lesotho

- Examination Development and Administration

The ECL develops syllabi and question papers aligned with national curriculum standards. It ensures that assessments are comprehensive and fair, covering the entire curriculum content.

- Registration and Candidate Management

The council manages candidate registration processes for various examinations, including:

- Lesotho School Certificate Examinations (LSCE)
- Junior Certificate Examinations
- Other specialized assessments

- Examination Logistics and Security

The council ensures the secure handling of examination materials, proper storage, and distribution. It also coordinates with schools and examination centers to facilitate smooth conduct.

- Marking, Grading, and Certification

Post-examination, the ECL oversees marking processes, grade assignments, and issues certificates to successful candidates. It maintains confidentiality and fairness throughout.

- Quality Assurance and Standards Enforcement

To uphold credibility, the council monitors examination centers for compliance with policies, investigates irregularities, and enforces disciplinary measures when necessary.

- Data Management and Reporting

The ECL maintains comprehensive records of examination results and provides reports to stakeholders, including government bodies, educational institutions, and the public.

Examination Types Managed by the ECL

The Examinations Council of Lesotho administers various assessments, including:

- Lesotho School Certificate Examinations (LSCE): Conducted at the end of secondary education, serving as a gateway to tertiary education and employment.
- Junior Certificate Examinations: For students completing lower secondary education.
- Professional and Technical Exams: For vocational and technical training students.
- Specialized Assessments: Including language proficiency tests and others as needed.

Impact of the ECL on Education in Lesotho

Promoting Fairness and Standardization

By establishing uniform assessment standards, the ECL ensures that students across diverse regions are evaluated equitably, reducing disparities in educational quality.

Supporting Student Progression

Reliable examination results facilitate informed decisions about student progression to higher education or employment, thereby supporting national development goals.

Enhancing Educational Quality

Through continuous review and improvement of examination processes, the ECL contributes to raising educational standards nationwide.

Fostering Transparency and Integrity

Stringent security measures and strict adherence to policies help prevent malpractices, enhancing the credibility of assessments.

Challenges Faced by the Examinations Council of Lesotho

While the ECL has made significant strides, it faces several challenges, including:

- Logistical Difficulties: Remote areas pose challenges in distributing examination materials and supervising exams.
- Resource Constraints: Limited funding affects the capacity to improve facilities, training, and security.
- Candidate Irregularities: Cases of exam malpractice require robust detection and enforcement mechanisms.
- Curriculum Changes: Rapid curriculum modifications demand updates in examination content and preparation.

Future Directions and Improvements

To further strengthen its operations, the ECL aims to:

- Incorporate technology in examination administration, such as computer-based testing.
- Enhance examiner training and capacity building.
- Improve data management systems for better reporting and analysis.
- Strengthen partnerships with educational stakeholders and development partners.
- Increase awareness and transparency around examination processes.

How to Contact the Examinations Council of Lesotho

For inquiries, registration, or support, stakeholders and candidates can reach the ECL through:

- Official Website: [Insert official website link]
- Physical Address: [Insert address]
- Phone: [Insert contact number]
- Email: [Insert email address]

Conclusion

The **Examinations Council of Lesotho** remains a cornerstone of the country's education system by ensuring that assessments are conducted with integrity, fairness, and professionalism. Its efforts not only uphold the credibility of Lesotho's academic qualifications but also contribute to national development by fostering a competent and skilled workforce. As the ECL continues to adapt to technological advancements and educational reforms, its role in shaping Lesotho's future remains indispensable.

Keywords: Examinations Council of Lesotho, Lesotho examinations, LSCE, national assessments in Lesotho, education in Lesotho, examination security, certification, education standards Lesotho, examination body Lesotho

Examinations Council of Lesotho: A Comprehensive Guide to Its Role, Functions, and Impact

The Examinations Council of Lesotho (ECL) stands as a pivotal institution in the educational landscape of Lesotho. Tasked with overseeing the development, administration, and certification of national examinations, the ECL ensures that the assessment system remains credible, standardized, and aligned with the country's educational goals. As Lesotho continues to strive for educational excellence and global competitiveness, understanding the role and functions of the

Examinations Council of Lesotho becomes essential for students, educators, policymakers, and stakeholders invested in the nation's academic future.

Overview of the Examinations Council of Lesotho

The Examinations Council of Lesotho was established to serve as the primary body responsible for the conduct of national examinations in Lesotho. Its creation was driven by the need for a centralized, impartial, and efficient examination system that can uphold standards, promote fairness, and foster confidence among learners and the public.

Key Objectives of the ECL:

- To design and develop examination syllabuses and assessments that reflect the national curriculum.
- To administer examinations at various levels, including primary, secondary, and technical education.
- To certify candidates' achievements and issue official certificates.
- To ensure the integrity and security of examinations.
- To promote transparency, fairness, and quality assurance in the assessment process.

Historical Background and Evolution

Lesotho's examination system has evolved over decades, with the ECL playing a central role in standardizing assessments across the nation. Initially, examinations were managed by government ministries or local education authorities, but as the system expanded, the need for a dedicated council became evident.

Historical milestones include:

- The establishment of the Examinations Council in the early 2000s.
- Transitioning from paper-based assessments to incorporating technology.
- Reforms aimed at improving exam quality, security, and accessibility.
- Implementation of policies to align with international standards and best practices.

Core Functions of the Examinations Council of Lesotho

The ECL's responsibilities span the entire examination cycle, from planning to certification. Below is a detailed breakdown of its core functions:

- Curriculum and Syllabus Development

- Collaborates with the Ministry of Education to develop syllabuses aligned with national educational goals.

- Ensures syllabuses are comprehensive, balanced, and up-to-date.
 - Incorporates feedback from educators and industry stakeholders.

- Examination Design and Development

- Creates examination papers that accurately assess learners' understanding.
 - Ensures questions are fair, unbiased, and culturally appropriate.
 - Implements quality control measures to maintain consistency.

- Registration and Candidate Management

- Opens registration portals for students sitting for various examinations.
 - Maintains candidate records and manages admission processes.
 - Provides guidance to candidates on examination procedures.

- Examination Administration

- Oversees the logistics of examination centers across Lesotho.
 - Ensures secure storage and handling of examination materials.
 - Implements strict security protocols to prevent cheating and malpractice.

- Marking and Grading

- Coordinates the marking process, often employing trained examiners.
 - Uses standardized grading schemes to ensure fairness.
 - Implements double-marking or moderation for quality assurance.

- Certification and Results Processing
 - Issues certificates to successful candidates.
 - Handles appeals or re-marking requests.
 - Publishes examination results within stipulated timelines.
- Quality Assurance and Security
 - Conducts regular audits of examination centers.
 - Implements measures to prevent fraud and misconduct.
 - Provides training and workshops for examiners and invigilators.
- Policy Development and Stakeholder Engagement
 - Advises government on examination policies and reforms.
 - Engages with schools, teachers, parents, and students.
 - Promotes awareness campaigns about examination processes.

Key Examinations Managed by the ECL

The Examinations Council of Lesotho oversees several major assessments that are critical milestones in students' academic journeys:

- Lesotho School Certificate Examinations (LSCE): Conducted at the end of secondary education, serving as a gateway to higher education and employment.
- Primary School Leaving Certificate (PSLC): Administered after primary education, certifying students' readiness for secondary education.
- Technical and Vocational Examinations: Assessments for students in technical colleges and vocational training centers.
- Specialized and Professional Certifications: For candidates pursuing specialized fields requiring national certification.

Challenges Faced by the Examinations Council of Lesotho

Despite its vital role, the ECL faces several challenges that impact its effectiveness:

- Resource Limitations: Insufficient funding can hamper the procurement of examination materials, security infrastructure, and training.
- Security Concerns: Ensuring the integrity of exams amid threats like cheating, collusion, or leakage remains a persistent challenge.
- Technological Constraints: Transitioning to digital assessments requires substantial investment and capacity building.
- Accessibility Issues: Reaching candidates in remote or underserved areas poses logistical challenges.
- Capacity Building: Maintaining a pool of qualified examiners and invigilators demands ongoing training.

Recent Reforms and Future Directions

To address these challenges and improve examination quality, the ECL has embarked on various reforms:

- Adoption of Technology: Moving towards electronic registration, digital exams, and online result dissemination.
- Enhanced Security Measures: Implementing biometric authentication and secure storage protocols.
- Curriculum Alignment: Regular review of syllabuses to match evolving educational and industry needs.
- Stakeholder Collaboration: Strengthening partnerships with schools, government agencies, and international organizations.
- Capacity Building: Providing continuous training for staff and examiners.

Looking ahead, the ECL aims to position Lesotho's examination system as a model for the region by emphasizing innovation, fairness, and inclusivity.

How to Engage with the Examinations Council of Lesotho

For students, educators, and institutions seeking to interact with the ECL, the following steps are recommended:

- Stay Informed: Regularly check the official ECL website or communication channels for updates on examination schedules and policies.
- Prepare Adequately: Use past papers, syllabuses, and guidelines provided by the ECL for exam preparation.
- Register on Time: Adhere to registration deadlines and ensure all documentation is complete.

- Attend Briefings and Workshops: Participate in orientation sessions organized by schools or the ECL.
- Seek Clarification: Contact the ECL directly for inquiries or assistance related to examinations.

Conclusion

The Examinations Council of Lesotho plays an indispensable role in shaping the country's educational outcomes through its meticulous management of assessments. Its commitment to fairness, integrity, and quality assurance ensures that learners' achievements are recognized and valued. As Lesotho continues to develop its education sector, the ECL's ability to adapt to technological advancements, address challenges, and uphold standards will be crucial for sustaining trust and fostering academic excellence across the nation.

By understanding its functions and ongoing initiatives, stakeholders can better support the ECL's mission and contribute to a brighter future for Lesotho's education system.

Question What is the role of the Examinations Council of Lesotho? The Examinations Council of Lesotho is responsible for overseeing the development, administration, and certification of national examinations to ensure quality and fairness in the assessment process. **Answer** How can students register for exams conducted by the Examinations Council of Lesotho? Students can register for exams through designated schools or examination centers, following the registration procedures and deadlines set by the Examinations Council of Lesotho, often involving online or physical registration forms. What are the recent updates or changes in the examination schedule by the Examinations Council of Lesotho? Recent updates include the postponement of certain exams due to COVID-19 considerations and adjustments to the timetable, which are communicated via official notices on the council's website and through schools. How does the Examinations Council of Lesotho ensure the integrity of its examinations? The council implements strict security measures, including secure exam centers, invigilation protocols, and anti-cheating policies, to maintain the integrity and credibility of the examination process. Where can students access their examination results issued by the Examinations Council of Lesotho? Results are typically published on the official website of the Examinations Council of Lesotho, and students can also collect their certificates from designated examination centers or schools after official release.

Related keywords: Lesotho exams, Lesotho education authority, Lesotho examination board, Lesotho national exams, Lesotho school assessments, Lesotho certification authority, Lesotho curriculum assessments, Lesotho testing agency, Lesotho exam schedule, Lesotho student evaluations

HARROW COUNCIL PAY SCALES

Harrow Council Pay Scales: An In-Depth Guide to Salaries and Compensation Structures

When exploring employment opportunities within Harrow Council, understanding the **Harrow Council pay scales** is essential. These pay scales determine the salary ranges for various roles within the local authority, ensuring transparency and consistency across different departments. Whether you're considering a career in local government, a new position, or simply researching public sector salaries, knowing how pay scales work can help you make informed decisions. This article provides a comprehensive overview of Harrow Council's pay scales, including how they are structured, factors influencing pay, and how they compare to other local authorities.

Understanding Harrow Council Pay Scales

Harrow Council, like many local authorities in the UK, utilizes structured pay scales to set salaries for its staff. These pay scales are designed to reflect the responsibilities of roles, the level of experience required, and the current economic climate. They also aim to promote fairness and equal pay across the organization.

What Are Pay Scales?

Pay scales are predetermined ranges of salaries assigned to specific job grades or bands within an organization. They provide clarity regarding the minimum, maximum, and progression points for each role. In Harrow Council, these are typically aligned with nationally recognized frameworks such as the National Joint Council (NJC) pay scales or local agreements.

Key Features of Harrow Council Pay Scales

- **Structured Grade Levels:** Jobs are categorized into bands or grades, each associated with a pay scale.
- **Progression Points:** Staff can progress within a pay scale based on experience, performance, or length of service.
- **Annual Reviews:** Pay scales are reviewed regularly, often annually, to account for inflation, cost of living adjustments, or policy changes.
- **Additional Payments:** Certain roles may include allowances or bonuses, supplementing the base pay.

Structure of Harrow Council Pay Scales

The structure of Harrow Council's pay scales generally mirrors national standards but is tailored to local needs. The main components include pay bands or grades, pay points, and progression criteria.

Pay Bands and Grades

Harrow Council categorizes roles into several pay bands, with each band covering a range of salaries. These may include:

- **Administrative and Support Roles:** Entry-level positions with lower salary ranges.
- **Professional and Technical Roles:** Positions requiring specific qualifications or skills.
- **Senior Management and Leadership:** High-responsibility roles with higher pay scales.

Pay Points and Progression

Within each pay band, there are multiple pay points. Employees typically start at the minimum point and can move up through annual increments, provided performance and other criteria are met. Some roles may have a set maximum, beyond which progression requires promotion or additional responsibilities.

Factors Influencing Harrow Council Pay Scales

Several factors impact the specific pay for roles within Harrow Council, including national pay agreements, local budget considerations, and individual performance.

National Pay Agreements

Harrow Council often aligns its pay scales with nationally negotiated agreements such as those from the NJC for local government services. These agreements can influence minimum and maximum pay levels, annual increases, and other employment conditions.

Local Budget and Economic Conditions

The council's financial health and the broader economic environment also play roles in determining pay scales. During periods of economic downturn or budget constraints, pay increases may be limited or delayed.

Experience and Qualifications

Employees with more experience, additional qualifications, or specialized skills often receive higher starting salaries within the pay scale or can progress more quickly.

Specific Pay Scales for Key Roles

Harrow Council offers a wide range of roles, each with its own pay scale. Here are some typical examples:

Administrative Staff

- Starting Salary: £20,000 ? £24,000
- Maximum Salary: £28,000
- Pay Scale: Band 3 or 4, depending on experience

Social Workers

- Starting Salary: £30,000 ? £35,000
- Maximum Salary: £45,000
- Pay Scale: Band 5 or 6

Senior Managers

- Starting Salary: £50,000
- Maximum Salary: £70,000+
- Pay Scale: Senior Management Band

Note: These figures are approximate and subject to change based on annual reviews.

Benefits Complementing Pay Scales

In addition to base salaries, Harrow Council employees benefit from a comprehensive package that enhances total compensation.

Additional Benefits Include:

- **pensions:** Membership in the local government pension scheme.
- **Paid Leave:** Generous holiday entitlement, sick leave, and parental leave.
- **Training and Development:** Opportunities for career progression and skills enhancement.
- **Flexible Working:** Options to balance work and personal life.

How to Find Current Harrow Council Pay Scales

To access the most accurate and up-to-date information on Harrow Council pay scales, consider the following resources:

- [Harrow Council Careers Page](#): Regular updates on vacancies and salary information.
- [National Joint Council Pay Scales](#): For nationally negotiated salary bands.
- Union and Employee Representatives: Often provide guidance on pay scale changes and negotiations.

Conclusion

Understanding the **Harrow Council pay scales** is crucial for current employees, prospective applicants, and anyone interested in local government salaries. These pay scales serve to promote fairness, motivate staff, and ensure the council remains competitive within the public sector. While specific salaries can vary based on role, experience, and other factors, the structured approach provides transparency and clarity. For those considering a career at Harrow Council, familiarizing yourself with these pay scales can help you better navigate salary negotiations and understand your earning potential within the organization.

Whether you're exploring entry-level positions or senior management roles, Harrow Council's pay scales reflect the organization's commitment to fair remuneration and professional development. Stay informed through official council resources and union guidance to ensure you have the latest information on pay scales and employment benefits.

Harrow Council Pay Scales: A Comprehensive Review

Understanding the intricacies of Harrow Council pay scales is essential for employees, prospective job applicants, and policymakers alike. As a pivotal aspect of public sector employment, pay structures influence not only individual livelihoods but also morale, recruitment, and retention within local government. This detailed review aims to shed light on the various components, structures, and considerations surrounding Harrow Council's pay scales, offering clarity and insights for all stakeholders.

Introduction to Harrow Council Pay Scales

Harrow Council, like many local authorities in England, employs a structured pay scale framework designed to ensure fair compensation across a wide range of roles. These pay scales are typically aligned with national agreements, local policies, and sector-specific standards. They serve as a foundation for salary determination, progression pathways, and overall workforce planning.

Key points include:

- Alignment with nationally negotiated pay frameworks such as those from the National Joint Council (NJC).
- Adaptation to local economic conditions and budget considerations.
- Regular reviews and updates to reflect inflation, cost of living adjustments, and sector trends.

Structure of Harrow Council Pay Scales

The pay scales used by Harrow Council are generally based on the NJC pay spine, which is a standardized system for local government employees across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

National Joint Council (NJC) Pay Spine

- The NJC pay spine provides a series of pay points, typically ranging from point 1 (lowest) to over point 50 (highest).
- Each point corresponds to a specific salary level.
- Employees progress along these points through annual or performance-based increments.

Pay Bands and Grade Structures

Harrow Council's pay scales are often organized into distinct pay bands or grades, each associated with different roles and responsibilities:

- Administrative and clerical roles: Usually fall within lower pay bands (e.g., points 1-10).
- Professional and technical roles: Mid-range pay bands (e.g., points 11-30).
- Managerial and senior roles: Higher pay bands, often starting from point 31 upwards.
- Specialist or highly skilled positions: May have bespoke pay scales or additional allowances.

This hierarchical structuring ensures clarity in career progression and salary expectations.

Pay Progression and Increments

One of the core features of Harrow Council's pay scales is the systematic approach to pay progression.

Annual Increment System

- Most employees are entitled to annual increments, moving up one pay point each year.
- The increment is often subject to satisfactory performance and attendance.

- Some roles may have fixed-term or performance-based progression pathways.

Performance-Related Pay

- Senior roles or specialized positions might have performance-related bonuses or pay adjustments.
- These are typically negotiated on an individual basis or via collective agreements.

Progression Beyond the Scale

- For certain roles, there may be opportunities to progress into higher pay bands or managerial roles.
- Training, certifications, and experience are critical for upward mobility.

Factors Influencing Pay Scales

Several elements influence the specific pay scales and salary levels at Harrow Council:

National Agreements and Sector Standards

- The NJC framework sets the foundational pay points and conditions.
- Periodic national negotiations can lead to pay increases, adjustments, or restructuring.

Local Budgeting and Economic Conditions

- Budget allocations directly impact the capacity to implement pay rises.
- Economic factors such as inflation influence negotiations and adjustments.

Role Complexity and Responsibility

- Higher responsibility roles tend to attract higher pay points.
- Specialized skills or qualifications can lead to placement at higher scale points or additional allowances.

Legal and Policy Changes

- Changes in employment law or local government policies can necessitate adjustments to pay scales.
- Equal pay legislation ensures non-discriminatory pay practices.

Additional Compensation and Benefits

While pay scales form the core of employee compensation, Harrow Council also offers various benefits:

- Pension schemes: Access to local government pension schemes.
- Holiday entitlement: Varies by role and seniority, often with additional leave for long service.
- Allowances and overtime: Certain roles may attract additional payments.
- Flexible working arrangements: Options that can impact overall compensation and work-life balance.

Pay Scales in Practice: Examples of Roles and Salaries

Understanding real-world applications helps contextualize the pay scales:

- Administrative Assistant
 - Pay Point Range: 1-7
 - Approximate Salary: £20,000 - £23,000
- Environmental Health Officer
 - Pay Point Range: 15-25
 - Approximate Salary: £30,000 - £45,000
- Senior Manager (e.g., Head of Service)
 - Pay Band: 35-45
 - Approximate Salary: £50,000 - £70,000

- Director Level

- Pay Band: 45-50

- Approximate Salary: £75,000 - £100,000+

(Note: Salaries are approximate and subject to change based on updates to pay scales and negotiations.)

Comparison with Other Local Authorities

Harrow Council's pay scales tend to be comparable with neighboring boroughs and local authorities in Greater London, with some variations:

- London weighting: Many roles attract additional London allowances due to the higher cost of living.
- Market competitiveness: Harrow aims to remain competitive to attract skilled professionals.
- Variations: Some boroughs may have slightly higher or lower pay points depending on local policies.

Recent Trends and Future Outlook

The landscape of local government pay is dynamic, influenced by economic, political, and sector-specific factors:

- Inflation adjustments: Regular updates to maintain real-term value.
- Pay freeze or cap discussions: Occasionally, budget constraints lead to pay caps.
- Pay scale modernization: Ongoing efforts to streamline and update grading structures.
- Focus on equality: Ensuring pay equity across genders, roles, and seniority.

Looking ahead, Harrow Council is likely to continue aligning its pay scales with national standards while adapting to local needs and challenges.

Conclusion

The Harrow Council pay scales serve as a vital framework that balances fairness, transparency, and operational needs. They provide a clear pathway for career progression, reflect sector standards, and are responsive to economic conditions. For employees, understanding these pay scales is crucial for career planning and negotiating fair compensation. For the council, maintaining an

equitable and competitive pay structure helps attract and retain talented professionals committed to serving the community.

Whether you are considering employment with Harrow Council or are already part of its workforce, staying informed about pay scales ensures you can navigate your career prospects with confidence and clarity. As local government employment continues to evolve, so too will the pay structures, adapting to new challenges and opportunities in public service.

Question What are the current pay scales for employees at Harrow Council? Harrow Council's pay scales are based on the national local government pay structure, with specific scale points depending on the role and experience. For detailed information, employees should consult the latest pay scale document on the council's official website. How often are pay scales updated at Harrow Council? Pay scales at Harrow Council are typically reviewed annually, in line with national agreements and local negotiations, to ensure competitive and fair remuneration for staff. Where can I find the detailed pay scale for my position at Harrow Council? Detailed pay scales are available on the Harrow Council intranet or via the HR department. Employees can also refer to the latest collective bargaining agreements or pay policy statements. Are there any recent changes to Harrow Council pay scales? Recent updates to Harrow Council pay scales are usually announced during annual pay reviews or collective bargaining sessions. For the latest information, check official council communications or contact HR directly. How do Harrow Council pay scales compare to other London boroughs? Harrow Council's pay scales are generally comparable to other London boroughs, though slight variations may exist due to local agreements and cost of living differences. For precise comparisons, consult regional HR reports or official publications. Can I negotiate my pay scale at Harrow Council? Salary negotiations at Harrow Council are typically limited to specific circumstances, such as new roles, promotions, or exceptional performance. Employees should discuss with their line manager or HR for guidance. Are there any upcoming changes to Harrow Council pay scales due to government policy? Any upcoming changes to Harrow Council pay scales influenced by government policy are usually announced through official channels. Employees should stay informed via council updates and HR communications. What benefits are included in the pay scales at Harrow Council? In addition to base pay, Harrow Council employees often receive benefits such as pension contributions, paid leave, and professional development opportunities, which are outlined in the council's employee handbook. How can I calculate my potential salary increase based on Harrow Council pay scales? To estimate salary increases, refer to the current pay scale band for your role and the criteria for progression, such as years of service or performance. HR can provide guidance on pay progression policies and potential increases.

Related keywords: Harrow Council salary bands, Harrow Council pay grades, Harrow Council pay structure, Harrow local government pay scales, Harrow Council employment wages, Harrow Council salary ranges, Harrow Council pay rates, Harrow Council staff salaries, Harrow Council pay policies, Harrow Council pay brackets

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