**GENERAL SECRETARY BALLOT - REMINDER**

**INFORMATION FOR BRANCH NEWSLETTER, FACEBOOK**

Note:

*Please feel free to use this copy in your branch newsletter or branch Facebook, along with images, video and flyers available in the Electronic Press Kit (EPK) which you can download from* [*bit.ly/equitymln-epk*](https://bit.ly/equitymln-epk)

Equity members are responsible for electing the next General Secretary of our union and ballot papers will be despatched the first week in June.

The General Secretary is the union’s chief executive officer, head of the union’s staff, and spokesperson for our union. It is a paid post with a 5-year term. Christine Payne, the current General Secretary, is retiring in October. The role includes negotiating with employers, lobbying the government, and advancing the interests of the union members, as well as acting as General Secretary to the Council and other meetings of the Union.

Two candidates, Simon Curtis and Paul Fleming are standing for the role of Equity General Secretary and you can read more about them on their websites.

The Equity Member-Led Network (Equity MLN) organised a General Secretary online debate on 20 May 2020 chaired by Equity member Sandi Toksvig. The two candidates responded to pre-submitted and live questions, and gave their statements watched by an audience of 239 Equity members and staff.

All Equity UK members are invited to watch the recorded debate. All you need to do is register on Crowdcast at <https://bit.ly/gensec-2020-hustings>

Remember to vote for your preferred candidate and post your ballot to arrive before 12 noon on Wednesday 8 July 2020.