



**Issue 301    7th - 13th December 2020**

### **Not Just the NHS....Reward all who have fought covid**

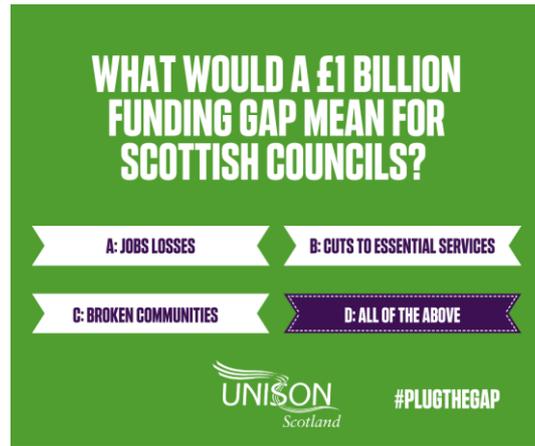
There was a fairly widespread welcome of the Scottish Government's announcement of a £500 'bonus'.for staff in Health and social care. It would take a hard heart indeed to say it wasn't warranted. (Whether it is sufficient reward for a year of exceptional effort and sacrifice is doubtless something to which we'll return in the future..). It would also take someone who has been paying very little attention to think that the only people going above and beyond in the time of Covid-19 worked in health and social care.

Local Government has been operating under difficult circumstances - distributing food/medicine/essential items across Scotland, protecting/caring for our vulnerable and elderly, collecting waste, staffing temporary mortuaries, staffing the hubs of "keyworker" children, kept schools and early years open, staffing the asymptomatic testing sites, Environmental Health & Trading Standards Officers enforcing public health and wellbeing, Mental Health Workers with increased caseloads, Housing and Craft workers who have been working in tenants homes, those who have been processing and issuing emergency support grants. last but by no means least the army of cleaning staff without whose efforts no one else would have been able to work at all, far less do so safely.

This list is hardly exhaustive - the Scottish Government should realise that there was a massive effort put into dealing with covid across public services - and be prepared to reward those who responded equally.

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The Scottish Government may have forgotten the wider Scottish Local Government workforce but UNISON Scotland hasn't. We'll continue to fight to get you the recognition you deserve. Help us by sending a letter to your **MSP now**



### Pay Up Now Update

UNISON Scotland called off its NHS pay ballot following a Scottish government announcement of a £500 pro rata payment for all health workers. Read more [here](#).



Tributes were paid to General Secretary Dave Prentis as he joined the online UNISON Scotland Scottish Council meeting of branches before he retires at the end of the month. Dave spoke warmly of his relationship with UNISON Scotland over the years and thanked every member and activist for their work throughout the years and especially through Covid. Read more [here](#).

### UNISON survey about hate crime

The government is thinking of changing the law on hate crime. We want to make sure they listen to the experience of UNISON members before they decide on the changes. Have your say [here](#).



Palestinian workers' rights have been denied by the occupation for over half a century, but coronavirus and the threat of annexation is making the situation significantly worse. Hear about how they are organising and defending workers in the most challenging circumstances.

**[Register for the webinar here](#)**

## PICK OF THE MEDIA

04/12/20 [morningstaronline.co.uk](http://morningstaronline.co.uk)  
**One-job rule 'will leave care staff in poverty'.**

04/12/20 [oxfamapps.org](http://oxfamapps.org)  
New report from Oxfam Scotland's – **Care, Climate and Covid-19: Building a Wellbeing Economy for Scotland**

01/12/20 [holyrood.com](http://holyrood.com)  
**UNISON calls for freedom of information laws to cover private care homes**  
**"The Scottish Government needs to act on this – and swiftly".**

01/01/20 [lancaster.ac.uk/work-foundation](http://lancaster.ac.uk/work-foundation)  
**Downturn in workers' mental and financial wellbeing during Covid-19: The hardest hit are those that can least afford it.**

01/12/20 [peoplesdispatch.org](http://peoplesdispatch.org)  
**250 million people participate in countrywide strike in India.**

# Coronavirus: your rights at work

Read our Q&A



## COVID-19 response fund

we're there for you

there  
for you

UNISON  
the public service union

If you are a member and you are experiencing financial difficulties, whatever the circumstances, **There for you** can offer you support. We can provide one-off payments to those in difficulty due to coronavirus, or other financial assistance for those experiencing unexpected hardship.

# UNISON members in Scotland who need advice during Coronavirus



Please speak to your workplace rep first. If possible.



**Glasgow:** 0141 342 2899

**Aberdeen:** 01224 620624

**Inverness:** 01463 715891

When you call us you will be asked to leave a message, please do and we will get back to you as soon as we can.



For membership enquiries: 0131 226 0090  
membershipassistancescotland@unison.co.uk

**UNISON**  
Scotland



## Learning in Lockdown

UNISON has increased the number of online courses. [Find out more](#)

UNISON - ALWAYS WITH YOU

Join UNISON now ▶



# PUBLIC WORKS:

**Public Works** is the UNISON Scotland campaign for jobs, services, fair taxation and a Living Wage... and against austerity. **This toolkit** provides branches with campaign resources to save our public services from the cuts driven by an austerity that is a political choice not an economic necessity.

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