



Issue 302 14th - 20th December 2020

Petition for equal treatment for all covid responders



UNISON Scotland members welcomed the Scottish Government's announcement of a £500 'bonus' for staff in health and social care. The Scottish Government must be aware that there were many other public service workers involved in responding to Covid.

This has been a year of exceptional effort and sacrifice for the workforce across public services and they all deserve equal recognition for their efforts.

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. Even this list is very far from complete – the Scottish Government must realise that there was a massive effort put into dealing with covid across public services.

Please sign the petition to show your support for the exceptional effort and sacrifice for the workforce across public services. **Where is OUR £500 ?**

Action needed: No Going back to Normal. A message from Mike Kirby

Dave Prentis: a life in UNISON



UNISON general secretary Dave Prentis is retiring after 20 years as the union's most senior figure and 40 years' service to the union. As general secretary he has led the union to a series of memorable achievements, including campaigning and negotiating for a real living wage, pushing for the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act and winning equal rights on partner pensions and marriage for LGBT+ people. Along the way, UNISON has established itself as the UK's largest union with over 1.3million members – one million of them women.

UNISON Scotland response: Fair Rents (Scotland) Bill



STUC Events

Find out how Unions into Schools has adapted delivering online sessions to schools in Scotland by attending rep update/training event on 19 Jan at 6pm. Register [here](#).

PICK OF THE MEDIA

11/12/20 morningstaronline.co.uk

Funding crisis will result in mass job and service cuts unless Holyrood invests. Mark Ferguson, chairman of Unison's local-government committee, said that ministers must "recognise the efforts of workers."

12/12/20 oxfamapps.org

Oxfam Scotland's new report, **Care, Climate and Covid-19: Building a Wellbeing Economy for Scotland** outlines, a vision of a Scotland, and a world, without poverty.

11/12/20 morningstaronline.co.uk

Call to back Bill on tenants' rights.

Coronavirus: your rights at work

Read our Q&A



there
for you

COVID-19 response fund

we're 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 grants 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

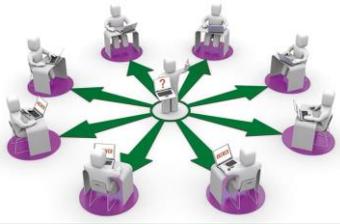
Inverness: 01463 715891

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](#)

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Join UNISON now ►



PUBLIC WORKS: TOOLKIT

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.