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Issue 303 21st - 27th December 2020



If you can get a break over this not quite as festive as usual season you certainly should. Bear in mind though that many thousands of UNISON members across our public service workers will be at work delivering Scotland's essential services over the holidays.

In local councils, the health services, utilities and many other services, UNISON members will be working to ensure we are looked after and communities are kept safe. This year these workers have had to rise to the unprecedented challenges brought by the pandemic – ordinary people thrust into an extraordinary situation who have gone above and beyond to look after us during this unprecedented crisis. UNISON is determined that their work throughout the crisis will not be forgotten – and that there will be no return to the 'normal' of being under-valued and under-paid. Thank you all.

## Scottish Ambulance Service fail to report staff who catch Covid19 at work to health and safety executive

UNISON is calling for an investigation into Scottish Ambulance Service after it emerged that they were failing to report cases as transmitted in the workplace.

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR), which is Health & Safety legislation, requires employers to report and keep a record of Covid19 cases that are caught at work. Employers who ignore RIDDOR, or fail to report incidents, could be breaking the law. The employer-produced absence statistics show that while over 1000 ambulance staff, almost 1 in 4, have been diagnosed with Covid19 not one case has been recorded through RIDDOR as work related. [Read more ....](#)

Local Government Trade Unions submit 2021 Pay Claim to COSLA

Petition for equal treatment for all covid responders

Scottish Government and all public bodies must properly resource FOI teams through pandemic



## 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

18/12/20 [gov.scot](#)

New report, **Scotland's Wellbeing: the impact of COVID-19** published jointly by the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), confirms that people already suffering disadvantage are being hardest hit.

18/12/20 [heraldscotland.com](#)

**Care home report exposes harrowing experiences of Scots workers.**

18/12/20 [tuc.org](#)

**New report by TUC** looks at the Impact of Covid-19 and Brexit for the UK economy.

16/12/20 [stopclimatechaos.scot](#)

**More detail needed to show how Climate Change Plan update will meet Scotland's targets.**

16/12/20 [heraldscotland.com](#)

**UNISON survey reveals hundreds of Scots care workers are 'still not getting regular Covid tests'.**

18/12/20 [morningstaronline.co.uk](#)

**Covid isn't the only pandemic we are living through** UNISON Scotland's Stephen Smellie reminds us

# 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 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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# 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.