



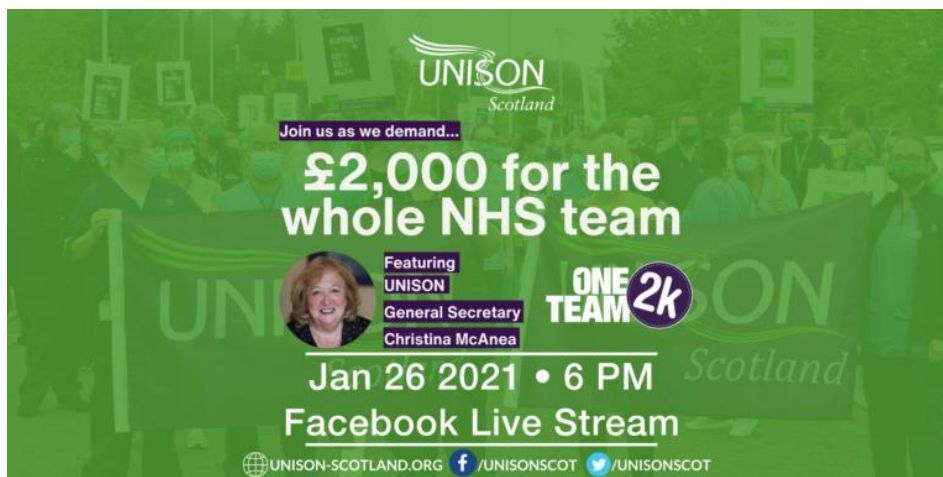
Issue 305 25th - 31st January 2021

Budget Statement

The absolute priority for the budget needs to be to deliver the funding for public services. This is both a social and economic necessity. We have seen through the pandemic just how essential public services are. It is becoming clearer every day how much pressure those who deliver those services are under. Asking them to shoulder the burdens of further cuts dressed up as demands for efficiencies would be to add insult to injury.

Even if as everyone hopes we begin to put Covid behind us as a health issue there will remain an urgent need to rebuild our economy. The more effort that is put into sustaining public services the easier that will be. There is no quicker or more beneficial way for government to create jobs and local economic demand than investing public services. It is also the case that there is no easier way for a government to prevent an increase in unemployment than ensuring public services aren't so poorly funded they make people redundant.

It would be no surprise if in the current climate the Scottish Government maintains its reluctance to fully use its revenue raising powers. There should however be no reluctance to use their own limited scope for borrowing. They should also be doing everything they can to to expand the borrowing capacity of public bodies. Sustaining public services is not building up debt - it is investment in recovery.



Join us on Facebook for a live stream, featuring UNISON General Secretary Christina McAnea, as we demand a £2,000 pay rise for the whole NHS team. We will also launch our new campaign video and outline details of the next stages of our campaign for a pay rise for health workers. For our OneTeam2k campaign to be successful we will need public support and political pressure. [#OneTeam2k](#) [#PayUpNow](#)

MSPs - do you support UNISON Scotland's #OneTeam2k campaign?
Please [let us know](#)



#OneTeam2k #PayUpNow

When clapping's not enough: UNISON demand the government bring forward the pay review to show it cares. [Watch](#) UNISON Scotland, Regional Organiser, Willie Duffy, explain how the impact of the pandemic on health care staff validates any pay increases.

Pay Fair for Care: Rally & Day of Action



It's time for a fair deal for care workers. A national day of action is being assembled on 3 February.

Thousands of care workers will log on, during their lunch hour, to stand up for what's fair. They will be joined by politicians and other supporters to discuss why this fight matters and what you can do to help. More info [here](#).



Join our campaign to protect your council services and those who deliver them

The Scottish government must fund local councils properly to keep communities safe and rebuild the country following the pandemic. We have launched a **campaign**, **#PlugTheGap**, to call on the Scottish government to find additional resources for Scotland's councils to avoid devastating harm to services that have already suffered ten years of budget cuts.

[Our Response to Scottish Government Climate Change Plan update](#)

[Petition for equal treatment for all covid responders](#)

[General Secretary's Blog: I promise to work across all parts of our union, for all our members.](#)

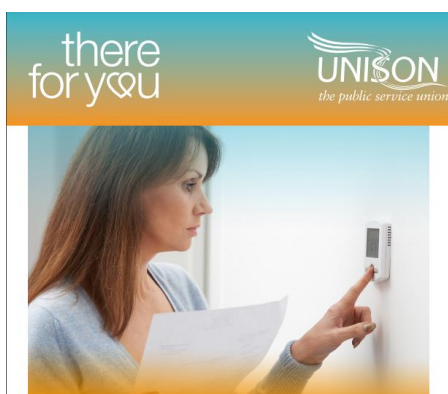
Strathclyde University are carrying out some research into the ongoing impact of the Pandemic on Mental Health amongst the Health and Social Care Workforce in Scotland. More details and link to survey [here](#).

PICK OF THE MEDIA

21/01/21 [morningstaronline.co.uk](#)
Nuclear weapons - expensive, murderous **and now illegal**

21/01/21 [gov.scot](#)
If not now, when? - Social Renewal Advisory Board report.

15/01/21 [theconversation.com](#)
India: striking farmers close down Delhi in a show of popular democracy



Get help to keep warm

UNISON's There for You Winter Fuel Grant programme for 2021 opens on Monday 25 January. Grants of up to £200 will be available to help UNISON members with fuel bills.

Forthcoming free STUC event to sign up for:
Building Workplace Activists - Living Rent & BetterThanZero Training

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

Make the most of staying at home and learn with us - we've got loads of free online courses for members

> [find out more](#)

UNISON - ALWAYS WITH YOU

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.