



Issue 310 1st - 7th March 2021

Make it a workers' budget

UNISON is urging chancellor Rishi Sunak to make his 3 March budget a budget for pay, jobs and investment in public services, in order to better rebuild after the COVID-19 pandemic.

General secretary Christina McAnea will be highlighting the call in a speech at the TUC's Rally for a Workers' Budget, from **7:30pm to 9pm on 2 March.**

As all sectors struggle after a decade of austerity, UNISON is calling for proper investment in public services – the chancellor should make sure that he is doing what he can to ensure that there is cash available for public services across the UK

UNISON "disappointed" with NHS interim pay award

UNISON comment on the Scottish government's interim pay award of 1% backdated to December 2020. Willie Duffy, UNISON Scotland head of health said: "We are disappointed that the Scottish health secretary has made this announcement, the staff side had previously written to her rejecting this offer. UNISON is concerned how this imposition may impact on any future pay negotiations with the Scottish government in 2021. We do not agree that NHS pay cannot be resolved until the summer of 2021. We are calling for pay negotiations to commence immediately. NHS staff need a pay settlement that recognises the sacrifice so many have made over the pandemic and starts to restore some of the real terms pay cuts of the past decade and show how much the government values the role they play in Scotland".



[Expensive private sector should be last resort for COVID vaccination programme](#)

[UNISON, UNITE and GMB push Scottish council leaders for action on pay](#)

[General Secretary's Blog: Why challenging racism matters](#)

Interested in what a National Care Service might look like? [Join](#) the online discussion 'Social Care fit for the 21st Century' on Tuesday 2nd March at 6pm. Speakers include Stephen Low, UNISON Policy Officer.

[Pay Fair for Care](#)



The government needs to get tough with care home operators not paying their share of tax

Internationally owned care companies are failing to pay their fair share of taxes and depriving the UK economy of millions of pounds, according to a UNISON-backed [report](#).

Introducing Free Freedom of Information Training and Briefing Guide

It is simple and straightforward for anyone to use their information rights and make a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. However, many people might feel a little unsure and could find some training helpful. We are organising some [free online training](#) for UNISON members in May. UNISON is pleased to be working with the Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland (CFoIS) who have produced this [briefing/guide](#). The CFoIS will deliver Using Your FOI Rights training in a 2 hour online session. Dates will be publicised in early March here and in emails to branch secretaries and on social media. Further details [here](#).

[International Women's Day - 8 March 2021](#)



We're working with our partners in the Scottish Food Coalition to organise a Hustings on 23 March to hear about the plans for the future of the food system from each of the political parties - join us & put your questions to the candidates.

[Register here.](#)



Make sure you register to vote and on May 6 use your vote for public services, and those who deliver them.

PICK OF THE MEDIA

24/02/21 dumbartonreporter.co.uk

UNISON says that it will resist any move towards compulsory home working for West Dunbartonshire Council employees after the pandemic.

24/02/21 scotsman.com

Number of Scottish school leavers going to 'positive destinations' falls as attainment gap grows.

23/02/21 equalityhumanrights.com

Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October.

23/02/21 localgov.co.uk

COSLA calls on all parties to make commitment to local government.



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.

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

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:

Public Works is the UNISON Scotland campaign for jobs, services, fair taxation and a Living Wage... and our public services from the cuts driven by an austerity that is a political choice not an economic necessity.
