



**Issue 286      1st - 7th June 2020**

#### **Next steps: for the NHS**

The Scottish Government has published [a framework document](#) outlining how areas of the NHS can look at returning to more normal working and restarting aspects of the Health Service that have been put on hold in recent months. With its emphasis on moving gradually and maintaining resilience there are few principles in the document with which anyone is likely to disagree. There is also a lack of specifics as to how this approach will play out in practice with which to judge the commitment to those principles.

We are glad that the Scottish Government are clear that the framework will need to be developed in partnership with staff. UNISON will in the coming days consult and produce a rounded response. There are however a few very basic staffing matters that present themselves immediately.

Safety, in terms of PPE, testing and safe distancing must be an absolute priority. Staff are very tired, both physically and emotionally, we must not overwhelm them. Work at a decent pace without luring staff into working waiting list initiatives and extra hours to get backlog reduced. Many, many of the aspects of both current working and moves towards more regular working will need to be kept under constant review. Staff are central to the operation of the NHS. We have said to the Scottish government that part of this process will need to be strengthening staff engagement and partnership working.

#### **Next Steps: for the economy**

The Scottish Government has said that "When things come apart, there is always the opportunity to put them back together differently." That opportunity needs to be taken.

UNISON have outlined our view of the form of economic recovery we need in our submission to the Scottish Government's Advisory Group on Economic Recovery [here](#)

We advocate investment to create resilient services in a resilient economy. Scotland can choose to refocus in order to build or rebuild domestic capacity, to get the maximum social and economic reward for investment by prioritising value ahead of price. A massive public stake was taken in private banks after the 2008 financial crash. No effort was made to change institutional practices for the benefit of the productive economy and the economic wellbeing of business owners and workers alike. We have another disastrous situation and cannot afford to repeat that mistake.



Everything you need to know on Coronavirus and your rights at work [here](#).



# 83%

of education staff are anxious about returning to work or, if they are at work, increasing the numbers of children returning to education.

Source: UNISON Scotland education staff survey - May 2020

New survey of Scottish education staff calls for PPE, training and Covid-19 risk assessments before more children return to education. [Read full survey findings.](#)



## Every school needs a safety rep

Contact your local branch to get involved!

Join today: [join.unison.org.uk](http://join.unison.org.uk)

### Work in education?

Help defeat COVID19 by becoming a health and safety rep.. [read more](#)



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS' SURVEY

This is a survey for all UNISON members. UNISON Scotland is campaigning to ensure our members receive the support and resources they need to protect our communities. This survey will inform our campaign for local government “Fighting together today for a better future tomorrow”. Take part [here](#).



### TAKE OUR CORONAVIRUS SURVEY

This is a survey for all UNISON members. UNISON Scotland is campaigning to ensure our members receive the support and resources they need to protect our communities. Take part [here](#).

## Coronavirus Health Staff: Clarification on single use PPE

## CORONAVIRUS: UNISON Pressure Secures Sick Pay and Death in Service Benefit for Care Staff



## Education Recovery Programme May 2020

The Scottish government has indicated that schools will return on August 11th. Some staff are also currently working in hubs. There also appears to be an expectation that early learning and childcare provision will continue and indeed scale up over the summer. UNISON is involved in a range of strategic groups with the Scottish Government and COSLA as they plan the easing of lockdown. More details [here...](#)



### We're Here For You

Members experiencing financial and emotional difficulties can contact our welfare charity, **There for You**, which provides a confidential advice and support service for members and their dependants. During the COVID-19 crisis, UNISON has changed its processes **to make it easier for members to get legal support at no extra cost**, as part of their union membership.

## 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



### PICK OF THE MEDIA

29/05/20 [closethegap.org.uk](http://closethegap.org.uk)

**50 years on, what will it take to realise equal pay for equal work?**

28/05/20 [unison-scotland.org](http://unison-scotland.org)

**Great deal more work needs done before children can return to childcare and schools.**

28/05/20 [holyrood.com](http://holyrood.com)

**Is COVID-19 crushing freedom of information rights?**

27/05/20 [stuc.org.uk](http://stuc.org.uk)

**New trade union membership figures show a growing movement.**

**NHS Scotland's self-help guide on the coronavirus**



### **Learning in Lockdown**

UNISON has increased the number of online courses. **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.

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