

# UNISON WEEK

News and views from the biggest union in  
Scotland's public services



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## Back to school...

Everyone - with the exception of some of the pupils - wants schools to reopen as quickly and fully as possible. Everyone - including the pupils - needs to be aware that school reopening occurs to the extent that it's safe to do so. Every school is individual so every school needs it's own risk assessment and it's own plan. Those plans will then need to be resourced.

Clear guidance on safe working in schools and early learning in the face of this deadly virus has been **published** (and see below). These will allow for some classroom based teaching to resume safely. It is easy to proclaim things should proceed more quickly, but schools don't have signs outside saying 'beyond this point the Health & Safety at work Act no longer applies'. The return of pupils, whatever the pace, has to happen in a manner consistent with guidelines, not at the risk of peoples lives.

## Claps and rainbows are great ...but they don't pay the bills:

UNISON Scotland has asked, fruitlessly so far, for NHS pay negotiations to be reopened. This is in the wake of the pandemic. Whilst many people were forced into inactivity for NHS staff the situation was very different. we have begun surveying UNISON members in NHS about the impact of coronavirus. Within 24 hours we had received over 7000 replies (the survey is ongoing for another 10 days) . People are reporting childcare costs, extra transport costs because they can't use restricted public transport, are washing their clothes more often, have been isolating from family, and are mentally and physically exhausted. This effort and commitment needs to be properly acknowledged - **'a clap is appreciated but wont pay our bills'**



Everything you need to know on Coronavirus and your rights at work **here**.

**Step up, stand up and speak out against racism. UNISON head of equality Gloria Mills looks at the union's role**

**NHS Members: UNISON Scotland Pay & COVID19 Survey**



The survey asks about the impact of COVID-19 on you and for your views on pay awards this year and next.

**NHS Members = Pay & Covid 19 Survey**

We are conducting a survey of NHS members to support our campaigns to ensure that your efforts are recognised and rewarded. Take the survey [here](#).

**SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS & EARLY YEARS**  
Information Pack & Safety Checklist



UNISON Scotland

**CORONAVIRUS: School and early years staff information pack & safety checklist for a safe return to work**

Early years and childcare services will start to expand from Monday 1 June. We need risk assessments, staff training and clear guidance on safe working practices. The overall framework is clear and comprehensive - but every workplace is different. Every workplace needs its own assessment and its own plan. The skills of the staff - particularly cleaning staff - need to be recognised, drawn upon and resourced. The cost of getting this wrong isn't one anyone wants to pay. More information [here](#).

UNISON Scotland

**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](#)

**[CORONAVIRUS: Nursery schools need safety reps](#)**

**[Council's furlough schemes must not be a 'waiting room for redundancy'](#)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS' SURVEY**



**ALL MEMBERS SAFETY SURVEY**





**The Parliament Project** has launched a new series of FREE online workshops as part of **Equal Power**, a three-year campaign aiming to support diverse women into politics and community activism. More information [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

12/06/20 [conter.co.uk](#)

**My experience of being a cleaner in a care home through COVID-19...**

12/06/20 [tuc.org](#)

**GDP: Protect and create jobs for a faster recovery**, says TUC

12/06/20 [holyrood.com](#)

**Equality and Human Rights Commission to launch review of Windrush scandal**

11/06/20 [unison.org](#)

**Shock jobs announcement leaves British Gas workforce reeling.**

11/06/20 [scotsman.com](#)

**Scotland coronavirus death rate third worst in the world.**

11/06/20 [holyrood.com](#)

**The recovery from COVID-19 must mean building a better economy for women.**

10/06/20 [unison-edinburgh.org.uk](http://unison-edinburgh.org.uk)

**Edinburgh UNISON supports furloughed staff and says City Council needs long term investment.**

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11/06/20 [unison.org](http://unison.org)

**The government must act now to stop the illegal annexation of Palestine.**

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15/06/20 [Morningstaronline.co.uk](http://Morningstaronline.co.uk)

Grenfell **three years on**

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**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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