



Issue 295 5th - 11th October 2020

Scotland's Inward investment plan

There can be no doubting that recovery from the economic damage done by the Coronavirus will require investment. To rely on inward investment to generate this however is to repeat the mistakes of the past. Private equity companies are showing themselves to be poor stewards of care homes. Increasing our reliance on them through other sectors will not provide the social and economic regeneration we so urgently need. The long term investment we need is unlikely to be provided by promising high returns to an ever more footloose global capital - but instead through the resilience sustainability provided through building up the foundational economy. The Scottish Government says it supports this Community Wealth Building strategy. Now is the time for them to make that clear. UNISON's views on economic recovery can be found [here](#).

Internal Market Bill - Legislative consent motion.

There is currently an internal market in the UK. That is uncontroversial. The same can't be said for the UK Government's Bill. UNISON has serious concerns about the Bill as we outlined in our [submission to the Treasury](#) on the Spending Review (when that was going to happen). The Government's intent in the Internal Market Bill is to increase its capacity to spend in a number of areas which are currently devolved, and to remove powers from the Scottish Government to provide aid to firms for the purposes of job creation. We are very concerned that the assumption of these powers by the UK Government will be seen as an opportunity to cut the block grant which provides much of the Scottish Government's funding. This goes against both the principle and practice of devolution. We urge the UK government not to pursue such a course and The Scottish parliament to do all it can to influence them not to.



This Black History Month, we won't go back to the old normal

UNISON Scotland in Parliament

Wilma Brown of Fife NHS Branch gave evidence to the House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee as part of their Coronavirus in Scotland Inquiry. Johanna Baxter, Head of Local Government Bargaining spoke to Holyrood's Local Government Committee as part of their pre budget inquiry



Pay Up Now Campaign

Support the UNISON Pay up Now campaign for a decent pay rise by contacting your MSPs and MPs and asking them to support the campaign. Ask your friends and family to email too. The campaign has already won agreement to start pay talks for a rise this year.



Challenge Poverty Week, from 5-11 October, is an opportunity for everyone across Scotland to raise their voices against poverty and show what needs to be done to tackle it. During this week UNISON is joining hundreds of organisations from across Scotland to raise our collective voice against poverty.

Dying to Save Lives

UNISON is committed to making sure that workers' rights are at the centre of procurement – looking after the workers who make the PPE that helps keep our members safe. [Read full story](#)



Scotland in UNISON 146 October 2020

- No Going Back To Normal;
- Organising during pandemic. Health members seize moment;
- Plug the funding gap to protect vital council services;
- South Ayrshire wins pay rise for care at home staff;
- UNISON strike ballot halts Napier compulsory redundancies;
- UNISON calls for regular testing for care at home staff;
- UNISON victory for SEPA contact centre staff;
- Write to your MP to support Gas workers;

PICK OF THE MEDIA

02/10/20 thecourier.co.uk

UNISON calls for capacity review at Covid-hit Perth College campus.

01/010/20 theguardian.com

Paul Stephenson: the hero who refused to leave a pub – and helped desegregate Britain

01/10/20 tuc.org

TUC: government must do more to end inequality 10 years on from Equality Act.

03/10/20 morningstaronline.co.uk

The **Battle of Cable Street** should inspire action today says TUC General Secretary Frances o'Grady.

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**

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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