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**Issue 300    30th November - 6th December 2020**

### **£500 'Bonus' payment is welcome**

Commenting on the announcement by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, UNISON Scotland regional secretary Mike Kirby said:

“We welcome today’s announcement on a bonus payment for NHS and social care workers which is the result of many months of pressure from UNISON, Scotland’s largest union. It is no less than they deserve for taking care of us and the most vulnerable in our society during this unprecedented crisis.

“There is still a lot of work still to be done to work out the detail and, importantly, how we can get the money into the pockets of our hard-working and dedicated NHS and social care workers. UNISON will continue to work with the Scottish government to ensure this happens as soon as possible.” [more here](#)

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## **Disability History Month Online Events**



## **DISABILITY HISTORY MONTH SUCE WEBINAR**

**Access: How far have we come?  
How far do we have to go?**

**THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER AT 6PM**

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

Scottish Government must take a different approach: Mike Kirby, Scottish Secretary, UNISON



**Scotland in UNISON 147 December 2020**

- They say they value us – it’s time to show it;
- Health workers prepare for ballot on industrial action;
- Happy festive season to all our members – especially to those delivering services over the holiday;
- Call on branches to mark Disability History Month;
- Free webinars: Good social work in a time of Covid;
- STUC reports: Organising for fairness and equality; Responses to the crisis; A people’s recovery; A Scotland fit for the future;

**UNISON survey about hate crime**  
The government is thinking of changing the law on hate crime. We want to make sure they listen to the experience of UNISON members before they decide on the changes. Have your say [here](#).

**Good social work in a time of Covid – join our free Webinars**

UNISON Scotland’s Social Work Issues Group has set up one hour monthly lunchtime webinar series which will look at front line social work in Scotland – and how a commitment to social justice and good practice can be maintained in difficult times. It is open to all social work members, students and staff and will cover radical social work, the Independent Care Review for Children, poverty and inequality, and the crisis in social care for adults.

**[More information and joining details here](#)**

Despite what **some in the media might be saying** - there is money for public services

**PICK OF THE MEDIA**

28/11/20 [morningstaronline.co.uk](http://morningstaronline.co.uk)

**UNISON slams proposals to privatise Aberdeen GP practices.**

27/11/20 [unison-scotland.org](http://unison-scotland.org)

**UNISON backs Universities Scotland funding call.**

26/11/20 [dailyrecord.co.uk](http://dailyrecord.co.uk)

**Thirteen residents die at Scots care home branded 'weak' by health chiefs after Covid-19 outbreak.**

25/11/20 [eveningtimes.co.uk](http://eveningtimes.co.uk)

**"This letter is an example of how disconnected the management in NHS Glasgow is from the workforce. It is a slap in the face for NHS workers and will simply further demoralise an already tired workforce."** Matt McLaughlin, regional organiser, UNISON Scotland.

24/11/20 [unison.org.uk](http://unison.org.uk)

**Universities call for urgent action on racial harassment in higher education.**

24/11/20 [leftfootforward.org](http://leftfootforward.org)

**The pandemic is poverty. To 'level up' we need to overhaul our economy.**

## 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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