



Issue 311 15th - 21st March 2021

Properly funding public services is key to recovery

Commenting on Scottish budget, UNISON's Scottish Secretary Mike Kirby said: "The Scottish government had an opportunity to show it values the vital role our public service workers play by giving them the pay rise they deserve, but they've been let down. "The Scottish Government needs to do more to put public services at the heart of economic renewal. There is no quicker or more beneficial way for government to create and sustain jobs and local economic demand than investing public services. Properly funding the services people need, is a social and economic necessity. There can be no substantial recovery without investing in properly funded public services."



NHS Scotland pay negotiations to commence following health trade union call

Scotland's health trade unions have agreed to commence formal pay negotiations with the Scottish Government and NHS employers from this week. Willie Duffy, Staffside Secretary of STAC and Unison Regional Organiser said: "We had a constructive meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and are pleased that she responded so quickly to our concerns and request to review her previous decision. This past year has shone a spotlight on NHS staff, their dedication, their skill and the sacrifices they have made in responding to the pandemic. We will be making the case for the value of this contribution to be recognised in their pay packets." Read [more](#).

[Mental health support for health and social care workers](#)

UNISON's special delegate conference confirmed

General Secretary's Blog: To walk without fear

We're pleased to be part of the launch of the Poverty in Scotland 2021 publication, on Fri 26th March. There's a great line-up of speakers including Kay Sillars, Information Development Officer, UNISON Scotland. Register [here](#).

Introducing Free Freedom of Information Training and Briefing Guide

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](#).

The STUC Black Workers' Committee has organised a Black Workers' Network Meeting for Tuesday 16th of March at 6pm. The network meeting is open to all Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Workers across Scotland, including those not already in a trade union. Register [here](#).

Sign this parliamentary petition to fight against fire and rehire

PICK OF THE MEDIA

11/03/21 [dailyrecord.co.uk](#)

Scottish Government accused of short-changing council staff, and everyone else

11/03/21 [unison.org.uk](#)

Recruitment pledges must be backed by decent wage rise if NHS is to thrive.

11/03/21 [carboncopy.eco](#)

Local declarations raise our collective ambition of what's possible.

05/03/21 [dailyrecord.co.uk](#)

Stephen Smellie, deputy convenor of UNISON Scotland, called the situation "**disappointing**" and said workers "**cared deeply**" about a sustainable future for their children.

04/03/21 [theferret.scot](#)

Inverclyde Council has called on Scotland's largest council pension fund to **stop investing in arms and to commit to ethical investments.**

16/03/21 [morningstaronline.co.uk](#)

Social Work & Ubuntu fine reflections from John Stevenson on World Social Work Day



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



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: 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.

