



Issue 312 22nd - 28th March 2021

COSLA pay offer is a 'slap in the face' to Scotland's local government workers

Mark Ferguson, chair of UNISON Scotland's local government committee "COSLA has been quick to praise our members for their efforts during this pandemic yet have presented our members with a dismal [pay offer](#). Our members have gone above and beyond to provide the services we have all relied on during this pandemic, the least they deserve is to be paid fairly. This offer is a slap in the face to our dedicated local government workforce." [more here](#)

[Scottish Water trade unions launch workplace ballot at over £3,000 loss of pay](#)

Supreme Court sleep-in appeal decision is blow for everyone in social care

The [judgment](#) by the Supreme Court that social care staff are not entitled to the national minimum wage for every hour they work, including sleep-in shifts, is a huge blow for thousands across the country, says UNISON. Care workers deserve fair pay. [Listen](#) to Christina McAnea, UNISON General Secretary, on BBC Woman's hour and please sign the [petition](#) to show your support for care workers and send a message to our Prime Minister - the care system is broken, fixing it must be a priority.

[Women need to be safe not careful](#)

[General Secretary's Blog: This worrying attack on free speech and the right to protest](#)



Supporting social workers in 2021

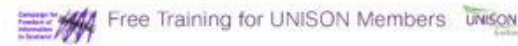


Supporting social workers in 2021

Community Care and UNISON mark World Social Work Day 2021 with a [new digital guide](#) and [podcast](#) to support social workers' wellbeing. In recognition of the acute challenges facing the sector, and to thank all social workers for their incredible work, Community Care has joined forces with UNISON, to produce a free expert-written resource, full of advice, tips and guidance.

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](#).

Freedom of Information



Free Freedom of Information Training

UNISON Scotland members can book a free 2-hour online training session in May to help you feel confident in using FOI and other legislation to find out key facts, figures and other information. Register [here](#).

[Sign this parliamentary petition to fight against fire and rehire](#)

PICK OF THE MEDIA

18/03/21 [insider.co.uk](#)

Emma Phillips, UNISON regional organiser for Scottish Water, added: **"It is not acceptable that Scottish Water are unilaterally proposing to cut pay cut of this workforce by up to £4,000 per year."**

17/03/21 [publicservices.international](#)

Algerian women trade unionists released thanks to international campaign.

17/03/21 [pressandjournal.co.uk](#)

UNISON urges Aberdeenshire Council not to sacrifice jobs of unsung pandemic heroes to save money. Unison branch secretary, Inez Kirk, said **"staff deserved to be thanked not only with words, but by their employer recognising their worth and paying them appropriately, not cutting their rights and pay."**

17/03/21 [morningstaronline.co.uk](#)

Pay offer for Scottish council workers a 'slap in the face,' says UNISON

16/03/21 thecourier.co.uk

UNISON warns Dundee University's pension changes will strip income from women and low-paid. Dundee University UNISON branch secretary Phil Welsh said "**The slashing of the current pension scheme is laser targeted at the lowest paid members of staff, while management will remain unaffected by these changes.**"



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

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



Learning in Lockdown

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[> find out more](#)

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£1.30
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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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