



Issue 298 16th - 22nd November 2020

Schools are staying open - but are they staying clean?

Despite the fact that they are absolutely essential to every building that people work in – cleaners don't get a great deal of credit or status (or of course money). The Scottish Government sometimes give the impression that their top priority in the pandemic [is keeping the schools open](#). You might think school cleaning would be taking a priority. Well you might...until such times as you asked school cleaners.

We did. In our survey only 18% of cleaners said they had enough time and the right materials to clean properly and keep themselves safe in schools & only 51% of cleaners said their setting was being cleaned thoroughly or regularly enough.

We also put in some freedom of information requests. Partly we were wanting to see how many extra cleaners had been employed given that the stakes for keeping schools to the best possible hygiene standards are now so high. We didn't expect to find that some councils haven't increased cleaner numbers at all. Which is something that will encourage all those parents dutifully keeping themselves to themselves but worried about their beloved offspring might be bringing into the house along with their homework. More on all this [here](#).

(Some people might be interested in just what sort of investment councils are making in extra school cleaning effort. Well we'd love to tell you - but we can't. Several councils got back to us saying that they aren't allowed to say because of "commercial confidentiality" due to outsourcing. Transparency gets sold off with the service....)

UNISON Scotland hosted a Question Time type event with some Cosla figures about council finances. You can find it [here](#) (... gets quite bleak at points)



Why NHS Workers Need a pay Rise

UNISON are looking for Jeane Freeman to make good her promise of awarding workers something this calendar year. We urge Health Secretary Jeane Freeman to meet with us as a matter of urgency and get this resolved – we need to pay up now for health workers. More on our Pay Up Now campaign [here](#)



November is Young Worker's Month!

As part of Young Worker's month, UNISON has launched a survey to find out young members experiences of Covid-19 and to ask what support they need from their union to ensure a post pandemic future. Young workers have borne the brunt of COVID-19 in terms of employment. Take the survey [here](#)

[Students' return home – UNISON urges Scottish government to protect staff](#)

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](#)

STUC 2020 - Congress, like much else, is a very different event this year. All the info you need to follow events is [here](#)

PICK OF THE MEDIA

06/11/20 *morniningstaronline.co.uk*

One aspect of coronavirus has been its **held up a mirror to the real condition** we are in argues the STUC's Rozanne Foyer

13/11/20 *edinburghnews.scotsman.com*

"It's appalling when people have been working so hard under the most difficult circumstances and now their jobs are under threat" Emma Phillips, Regional Organiser at UNISON

13/11/20 *unison.org.uk*

Politics can't interfere in the approval of PPE, warns UNISON

06/11/20 *stuc.org.uk*

STUC General Council calls for clarity, transparency and full consultation with workers as Scottish Government contemplates additional potential public health measures.

04/11/20 *holyroodcom*

Glasgow City Council must 'act quickly' to solve lack of temporary housing for homeless.

03/11/20 *unison.org.uk*

Black members: This avoidable crisis

General Secretary's Blog: Why we'll never stop fighting for a real living wage for all

Coronavirus: your rights at work

Read our Q&A



there
for you

COVID-19 response fund

we're 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](#)

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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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