



From the COSLA Spokesperson for Resources, Councillor Katie Hagmann

29 July 2022

Johanna Baxter, SJC Joint Secretary, UNISON
Wendy Dunsmore, SJC Joint Secretary, UNITE
Keir Greenaway, SJC Joint Secretary, GMB

Via email

cc: Cllr Katie Hagmann katie.hagmann@dumgal.gov.uk ; Simon Cameron simonc@cosla.gov.uk

Dear Johanna, Wendy and Keir,

Firstly, I am very conscious that we have not had the opportunity to meet properly, given the current context, however I feel it is important that I introduce myself. As you may be aware, I took up my new role on 17 June, at a time when a pay offer had been made and ballots were being conducted, a context I believe is unprecedented. It is regrettable that we now find ourselves making contact, with the very real threat of industrial action, something that I am sure we all want to avoid.

Secondly, thank you for copying me into your letter to Simon Cameron, following the conclusion of your ballots. I know that Simon has been in regular contact with you since our original offer was made and subsequently since the amendment was agreed by Leaders on 17 June. I have written to the First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy to convey that Leaders wanted to recognise the value of the Local Government workforce and make an additional offer, contingent on funding from Scottish Government, and to once again seek an urgent face to face meeting, together with our Trade Union colleagues.

We heard yesterday that there is the very real possibility of a meeting next week between myself, COSLA's President, Vice President, Political Group Leaders, and the Deputy First Minister and I hope we can bring Leaders together shortly after that to discuss an improved offer. However, as COSLA has made clear in all communications, 2% is as far as Local Government can go. The reality of any increased offer is significant job losses and cuts to services, should additional funding have to be found from within Local Government.

Finally, given the challenges we need to collectively work through, I would like to meet with you individually on an informal basis as soon as is practical. Whilst I appreciate that a formal meeting with a revised offer is what you are ultimately after, I am aware of the need to build a strong working relationship with you all, based on mutual respect for our roles and on trust that we are all working together for the benefit of our Local Government workforce, who are vital in the support they provide to our communities across Scotland.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left, followed by a series of connected loops and curves that extend to the right.

Cllr Katie Hagmann

Resources Spokesperson