

Matt McLaughlin



**Mr John Swinney MSP
First Minister of Scotland**

St Andrews House
Regent Street
Edinburgh
12 August 2022

UNISON House
14 West Campbell Street,
Glasgow
G2 6RX

21 January 2025

Dear First Minister,

Tel: 0141 342 2899

NHS meeting 22 January – Bute House

I understand that following last weeks press and political interest in the RCN report on corridor care you have invited the RCN and other 'Royal Colleges' to a meeting at Bute House on Wed 22 January to **"discuss how we can work together to sustain and renew the NHS in Scotland."**

Whilst UNISON welcomes the fact that our sister unions press release and the ensuing political storm appears to have led to this meeting, the fact that you appear to have chosen to ignore UNISON in this space will feel like a slap in the face for our members who are busy working flat out at every level of our NHS to cope with and respond to your governments consistent failures in policy, workforce planning and resourcing of our NHS.

UNISON is not only the biggest trade union across the NHS in Scotland but it is also the most diverse. We represent all grades of staff from domestics, catering and administration professionals to nurses, midwives, radiographers, occupational therapists, ambulance staff, call handlers and even chief executives. Our union is built upon a clear ethos that every worker in the NHS is essential to ensure the efficient and effective care of patients. Working as One Team, UNISON members really do deliver services from the cradle to the grave.

Should UNISON members assume that your government is not interested in their views or representations?

It should therefore go without saying that any agreements or accords you reach on Wednesday with your hand-picked audience are not agreed by UNISON. If you are truly committed to the recovery of our NHS, you and your government must significantly improve how you engage with and listen to UNISON, other unions and the wider service rather than focusing on managing bad optics.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt McLaughlin" with a horizontal line underneath.

Matt McLaughlin

Regional Organiser

UNISON Scotland Lead Organiser for Health -Bargaining

CC – UNISON Branches and Health Comm