



UNISON
Scotland

Local
Government
Network

for people who care about local government

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Local Government Pay

UNISON is urging members to reject the pay offer made by COSLA. The consultative ballot will run until 7 November. Like last year the Scottish government have found additional money to improve teachers pay but not to improve the pay of local government workers.

Local government staff deliver vital services educating children, caring for vulnerable people, cleaning and protecting our communities, and much more serving the people of Scotland. Our local services are delivered by ONE Team and if COSLA and the Scottish Government really value the contribution all their staff make they must ensure that everyone who works in local government gets a fair and decent pay rise. More information is available [here](#)



Planning Reform

UNISON members have a range of concerns regarding the proposed changes in the Planning Bill. The main problem in planning is underfunding and the consequent loss of staff in planning teams. The Bill will not improve anything if these funding issues are not tackled. In particular reform of planning charges cannot be left until after the Bill is in place. UNISON responses to the early stages of the reform are available [here](#)

In Brief.....

The review of **Building Standards** is generally welcome. The success of these proposal and building standards in general depends on adequate funding to properly resource building standards teams in local authorities. Without that they cannot operate effectively now or in the future. UNISON's recent [report](#) into building standards teams exposes the terrible impact of cuts and the pressure staff are under trying to protect the public with limited resources. Our response to the latest consultation is available [here](#)

Barclay Review: UNISON has been calling on the Scottish government to introduce wider reform of taxation including a new fairer property tax for domestic properties, the return of non-domestic rates to local authority control and giving a wider range of taxation powers to local authorities e.g. a tourist tax. Instead this consultation contains minor reforms which tinker with the system rather than offering radical reform. The UNISON response is available [here](#)

And finally, UNISON's annual of violence at work [report](#) makes grim reading. Overall figures are double those when UNISON first started surveying employers about violence at work. Assaults on local government workers account for half of this total – an aggregate of 20,208 in the most recent year including over 4000 in schools. We support the extension of legislation covering violence at work to cover all workers engaged in delivering public services – and not just the emergency services. We now need action by employers and stronger legislation, regulation and oversight by government to end the aggro. It really isn't 'part of the job'

For more information please contact UNISON's Bargaining and Campaigns team on 0141 342 2811, or email Kay Sillars: k.sillars@unison.co.uk.

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