



UNISON
Scotland

Local
Government
Network

for people who care about local government

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Better Procurement

Councils purchase a wide range of goods and services and this is an important opportunity to extend the council's policy reach into the community. Supporting businesses who pay their taxes, treat their workers fairly and look after the environment.

The Scottish Government recently consulted over new procurement regulations. UNISON Scotland, working with a range of civil society organisations, put together '[Ten Asks](#)' that set out some priorities for the new rules. You can also read our detailed response [here](#). On workforce matters the Scottish Government has published a new [advice note](#) that outlines how councils can include the living wage and other workforce standards into contracts. Councils should be reviewing their procurement policies in light of this new advice.

Public Services Interactive

Fed up with people telling you, "the council does nothing for me, I don't use council services"?

The answer can now be found in UNISON Scotland's [interactive](#) high street. If you pass your mouse over our typical high street it will tell you just what public services are provided and what it would cost if you had to buy that service individually.

This is just a wee reminder of some of the services your taxes provide. Remember - every day is tax free day in Somalia!



In Brief.....

In the latest report in our 'Damage' series, staff who work in [transactional services](#) speak out. They often have to face public anger over cuts in services, far from the council headquarters. The previous month [mental health staff](#) set out their concerns in 'See Us'. Mental health services in councils, NHS and in the community sector are under resourced and often ignored. That's how it feels to the staff concerned.

The Scottish Government's Education Bill is a bit of a mystery to most people in the sector. We [welcome](#) the commitment to tackle educational attainment, but that needs specific policies and proper funding.

Another round of welfare cuts are likely to put further pressure on disadvantaged communities. In a joint [report](#) with CPAG Scotland, we outline how to make work fair for parents and children. Our new [Childcare Charter](#) sets out a comprehensive approach, rather than simply another political bidding war over hours.

For more information please contact UNISON's Bargaining and Campaigns team on 0141 342 2811, or email [Dave Watson](#), Scottish Organiser.

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