



To: Mr John Swinney MSP, First Minister of Scotland
Ms Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Gvt

c.c.: Katie Hagmann, COSLA Resources Spokesperson
Simon Cameron, COSLA SJC Joint Secretary

23rd August 2022

-- via e-mail --

Dear Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary,

We are writing to you both following our most recent discussions on pay with COSLA where we were unable to reach any agreement on the basis of the cost constraints presented.

Both parties did agree however that there is an urgent need for a face to face meeting with you and COSLA representatives to discuss the challenges the local government settlement presents for the vital workers we represent. We understand you are due to meet the COSLA Resources spokesperson tomorrow which might provide an opportunity to discuss this.

In seeking these talks, we would reiterate our strong concerns at the plans outlined for Local Government funding for the remainder of the Scottish Parliamentary term. The RSR sets out what is a 7% real terms cut to funding, in contrast to a 4.7% real terms increase in Scottish Government funding over the same period. For Local Government, this cut comes on top of the significant real terms reductions in councils' core funding since 2013/14.

These cuts have already had an adverse impact on the local government workforce which can be seen through the staffing shortages that exist in many essential occupation groups. We are now told that the continued financial constraints will have a direct impact on staff numbers and ultimately the ability to maintain essential services.

Whilst COSLA made a revised offer today we are a long way off reaching an agreement we could put to our members and there remains a need for this meeting to take place at the earliest possible opportunity.

We look forward to an early response.

Best wishes,

Johanna Baxter
SJC Joint Secretary
UNISON

Wendy Dunsmore
SJC Joint Secretary
UNITE

Keir Greenaway
SJC Joint Secretary
GMB