

## **Please lobby your MSPs to support key Bill and help workers with Long Covid**

By Roz Ronan, Chair of the Scottish Welfare Committee

Let's get as much support from UNISON members as we can to urge their MSPs to back the important [Scottish Employment Injuries Advisory Council Bill](#).

And to get MSPs to make the case that Long Covid is an industrial disease.

We are very disappointed and frustrated that the Social Justice and Social Security Committee has decided [not to recommend support](#) for Mark Griffin's Bill.

It will still go to a vote in Parliament, so we want to demonstrate the strong support for it from members of UNISON, and other trade unions and organisations across Scotland.

I have represented UNISON on the steering group for the Bill for the last three years and we contributed as part of a delegation to the Scottish Parliament in November.

Thanks to all of you who have helped already to lobby MSPs, but please do write to your MSP again and ask all your friends and colleagues to do the same.

Also, the Scottish Government has promised a new industrial injury benefit which could financially benefit Long Covid sufferers, among many others, but they are dragging their feet over consulting on and implementing it. It will replace the UK Government's Industrial Injuries Scheme and we want it to include Long Covid.

We don't believe enough people understand what Long Covid does to people's health – to their ability to work and earn a living. It is heart-breaking, but even more so when you consider that many key workers, many UNISON members, contracted COVID at work. We all relied on them risking their lives, doing vital jobs during the pandemic. They should not be abandoned now.

Our question to the Scottish Parliament is "Why are you not willing to support those working in health and care and other posts who have contracted Covid 19 in their workplace?" Many of the staff who contracted this terrible debilitating virus went on to develop Long Covid. And still NO help is offered.

You can write your own email or base it on the sample MSP emails in the Bill campaign materials, including the one on [Long Covid](#) being an industrial disease.

(You can write as an individual if the first paragraph re branch meeting doesn't apply – just delete that and write I instead of We. You can also add in other information you would like to be considered, although that is not necessary.)

Find out who your MSPs are and their email addresses by typing in your postcode here <https://www.parliament.scot/msps>. The STUC E-action is [here](#).

(The full lobbying pack with lots of information has been sent again to Welfare Committee members and Branch Welfare Officers.)