

Scottish Further Education Branch - Statement 2025

Using the appropriate democratic process, UNISON has taken the difficult decision to place the Scotland Further Education Branch under regional supervision. This means that since 7 November 2024, the branch functions have been run and administered exclusively by regional staff. This was necessary after allegations of serious breaches of union rules, inappropriate conduct and a breakdown of relationships between the branch and the union, and the branch and various employers in the further education sector. These are now being rigorously investigated by UNISON. As well as taking the branch into supervision, there are serious allegations of breaches of the union's rules. These investigations will be progressed and if allegations are proven then action will be taken in accordance with UNISON's rules.

Following these difficult decisions there has been misinformation put out about UNISON officials which must be addressed and dealt with in the proper way. To confirm there is no industrial action against employers or 'pickets' in this branch, and no such action is supported by UNISON. The use of this language undermines all our members who are in genuine, lawful industrial disputes with their employers.

There have been social media posts making claims that the regional or national UNISON offices have acted undemocratically or unfairly. This is not the case. Regional staff and the elected regional convenors have followed all appropriate UNISON procedures in these matters. UNISON has therefore taken the unusual step to put out this statement clarifying the facts.

Members may be concerned by what they hear and see on social media and elsewhere. But the truth is the branch is continuing to support and represent members, hold meetings including local member meetings.

UNISON is a member led union, and it is members who have taken the democratic decisions on these matters, under rule. This branch will only improve and flourish if more people come forward to take on the role of local representative and to support the Branch Committee. UNISON is a strong trade union and we depend on members being active in the union

and taking part and working as part of a collective to improve the working lives of our members.

If you are interested in finding out how you can be active in UNISON, please contact: fscotlandhelp@unison.co.uk

LILIAN MACER
Scottish Secretary

MARK FERGUSON
Scottish Convenor