



Issue 263 2nd - 15th September 2019

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## Green UNISON Day Scotland 20th September 2019



This year's UNISON are organising a week of activities to call for urgent action to tackle climate change. Green UNISON Day is timed to coincide with and show solidarity to the school climate strikers' action on 20 September. In [Scotland](#), our Green Day takes place on 20th September and is timed to coincide with and show solidarity to the school climate strikers' action - information on how to get involved is [here](#). Nationally, UNISON has organised a [whole Green week](#).

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[Register To Vote Here](#)

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We might not know the date yet - but there isn't any doubt that there is going to be a general election sometime soon. Every vote counts - and the future of our public services and the people who deliver them will depend on the result. Make sure your voice - and the voice of other UNISON members is able to be heard GET REGISTERED TO VOTE [HERE](#)

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### Pre-Budget Scrutiny: long term financial sustainability of local government



It is clear that local government has borne the brunt of cuts over the last 10 years. A range of reports, while using different methodologies, confirm the significant financial pressures local authorities face. Demand for services has also risen further increasing pressure on budgets.

UNISON hears first hand from our members about the threat created by budget cuts and staff shortages to the financial sustainability of local government. Without action to tackle: equal pay; an agreed replacement for the council tax and new tax powers for local authorities and investment in adequate funding for services local government is financially unsustainable. [Read our submission here](#).

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The [Autumn 2019 edition of Futures](#): *the newsletter for people who care about public services* covers:

- A Just Transition
- Working Class wages
- Toxic leadership
- Productivity
- Early Learning And Childcare Expansion
- PFI in Edinburgh Hospitals
- Automation and women

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## Higher Education Strike Ballot



UNISON is asking its members in higher education to vote 'yes' for strike action in a pay ballot that opens on Monday 9 September.

The union believes the employer's pay offer just isn't good enough. Most staff would see a pay increase of just 1.8% – well below inflation.

More information [here](#).

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## TAKE ONE ACTION FILM FESTIVAL

The fantastic [Take One Action Film Festival](#) is back for 2019 with a brilliant [programme](#) of global change films in Edinburgh and Glasgow in September.

Take One Action celebrates the people and films that are changing the world. As they say, take a seat and take a stand. View the trailer [here](#).

Take One Action is supported by UNISON Scotland and takes place from 18-29 September. This is the festival's 12th year and UNISON is supporting three films, including with speakers representing our International Committee at five 'Beyond the Screen' discussions.



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### Pick of the Media

05/09/19 [tuc.org.uk](#)

[Britain at risk of slipping back to 19th century working conditions.](#)

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29/08/19 [ons.gov.uk](#)

[How does UK healthcare spending compare with other countries?](#)

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27/08/19 [morningstaronline.co.uk](#)

UNISON Scotland's higher education lead officer Lorcan Mullen warns of [upstairs downstairs culture](#)

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[in Scots universities.](#)

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23/08/19 [express.co.uk](#)

[UNISON Scotland's head of health Matt McLaughlin calls for assurances as water coolers are removed in Scottish hospitals over health fears.](#)

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09/09/19 [morningstaronline.co.uk](#)

UNISON General Secretary Dave Prentis call for the [reversal of privatisation](#) as the TUC gathers in Brighton.

NB the best coverage of the TUC will be found in the [Morning Star](#)

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[Suspending Parliament smacks of dictatorship ... Read the latest from UNISON's General Secretary Dave Prentis' blog](#)

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# **PUBLIC WORKS: TOOLKIT**

[Public Works](#) is the UNISON Scotland campaign for jobs, services, fair taxation and a Living Wage... and against austerity. [This toolkit](#) provides branches with campaign resources to save our public services from the cuts driven by an austerity that is a political choice not an economic necessity.

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