



Issue 265 23rd - 29th September 2019

Last chance to fix Scotland's climate law

On Wednesday MSPs have the chance to deliver a Climate Act fit for the climate emergency. Campaigners, including Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, will be outside the Scottish Parliament at lunchtime before the debate to remind politicians what is at stake – our planet, our future – as highlighted on Friday by the millions around the world showing their support for the school climate strikers in global #climatestrike actions. You can [email MSPs](#) asap to demand a stronger 2030 target, improved action on Just Transition etc., then listen outside the Parliament on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning to readings from the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C, join the lunchtime demo, and watch the debate live streamed. Full SCCS details [here](#) and [MSP Briefing here](#).

UNISON welcomes public inquiry into sick kids hospitals

The failings at The Royal Hospital for Young People in Edinburgh, and the QUEH in Glasgow are now well known. UNISON has been highlighting these issues for a long time and [welcomed the announcement](#) of the Inquiry.

Commenting Thomas Waterson, Chair of UNISON's Health Committee said "The whole fiasco yet again highlights the weakness of the Scottish

Government's private finance system: The Scottish Futures Trust. Patients, staff and tax payers should not be left paying the price for this catalogue of errors and it is vital this inquiry ensures this is never allowed to happen again.”

SNIB

Scottish National Investment Bank Bill, Stage 1: UNISON, with our partners in the Just Transition Partnership, is encouraging MSPs to back amendments to the 'ancillary objects' to set a clear legislative mission for the bank: "to promote economic development which delivers a just transition to meet Scotland's climate change emissions reduction targets and improves social inclusion

Take part in our survey of UNISON members in Freedom of Information

UNISON Scotland is carrying out a new survey in our Damage series, looking at the experiences of members working in Freedom of Information.

This includes all those working directly in FOI, such as FOI Officers and other FOI practitioners. But it also includes many other members across a range of departments in all public bodies in Scotland who may, as part of their job, be responsible for providing/ and compiling information and data for responses to FOI requests. Complete the survey [here](#).



...On the subject of Freedom of Information

UNISON Scotland were in Holyrood speaking to the Post Legislative Scrutiny Committee about the current FOI law was working and how we can increase transparency. You can read our contribution [here](#)



UNISON Scotland's Social Work Issues Group (SWIG) is encouraging members on social work teams to take part in [a union survey](#) to highlight the issue they face in their day to day work, especially in relation to the impact of cuts.

Complete the survey [here](#)



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](#).

Lyn Marie O'Hara of UNISON City of Glasgow has won the TUC Organising Award for the work done by her and her sisters in the branch organising the Equal Pay strike. [See the TUC video here](#).

8,500 Glasgow City workers, predominantly low paid women, took part in the Glasgow Women's Strike on 23 and 24 October last year demanding equal pay – and won.

The victory followed 11 years of campaigning with 14 disputes.



In the event of a no deal BrexitUK Govt have announced some important information about immigration rules with implication for UNISON members who aren't UK citizens (just you know... live, work pay taxes and deliver public services here) [Details here](#)

Pick of the Media

20/09/2019 unison-scotland.org

UNISON Scotland showing solidarity with the magnificent young people striking against climate change

23/09/19 morningstaronline

Thomas Cook collapse is terrible isn't it? [Not for everyone](#)

12/09/19 assets.publishing.service.gov.uk

Congratulations [UNISON](#) - The annual government [Certification Officer report](#) confirms UNISON is again the largest union in Great Britain and the United Kingdom.

Read UNISON's General Secretary Dave Prentis' blog for views on issues UNISON is working on and information on what he's doing.

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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