



Issue 266 7th - 13th October 2019

Transport Bill

Publicly owned buses? YES - Workplace Parking Levy? NO

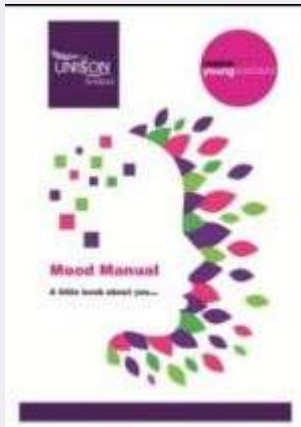
On Wednesday the Scottish Parliament will be considering the final stage of the Transport Bill. At the previous stage amendments were made to the Bill to allow Councils to set up Municipally owned Bus companies . We are very much in favour of that (we are also in favour of publicly owned rail so last weeks parliamentary endorsement of the Abellio franchise was very disappointing). Whilst the First Ministers determination to make buses faster and more reliable is doubtless laudable - it's making buses cheaper that will matter more to our members....and on the subject of cost.

The Bill still holds out the prospect of a Workplace Parking Levy. We are for strong local government. As such, we would not oppose a general enabling power to introduce a WPL. It is the specifics proposed that are problematic for a number of reasons, including the exemption for NHS workers, but not other public sector – or voluntary or private sector – workers whose roles may be extremely important and who may feel they too should qualify for exemptions. What about low paid women in social care, for example? Such policies should be transparent and fair and take account of people's circumstances, including family responsibilities, shift work, access to public transport. We are urging MSPs to oppose this measure. There is more on UNISON's stance on the Bill [here](#).

OUR MEMBERS SPEAKING UP IN PARLIAMENT

Marie Quigley, from UNISON Scotland's local government Committee , gave evidence to theParliament's Local Government and Communities Committee at last week. [Watch Marie here](#)

**UNISON Young Members
Mood Manual**



**Disabled members' newsletter
Autumn 2019**



Scotland in UNISON No 139 October 2019



Our latest activist's bulletin, covering

- Young lead the way on saving the planet – UNISON action on Green UNISON Day – special report and pictures;
- Call for pay ballot yes vote as HE branches notch up wins;
- UNISON welcomes public inquiry into hospitals
- UNISON keeps up pressure to reopen council pay talks;
- West Dunbartonshire apprenticeship agreement will benefit all;
- Phoenix rise for award-winning UNISON Kinneil Band;
- Retired members in TV licenses protest;
- Free UNISON training aims to make learning fun;
- Immigration advice for UNISON members;
- UNISON Labour Link News – Meeting with MSPs a powerful route to Scottish Parliament;
- Thanks to Gordon Lees as he retires

[Read more](#)



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](#).

PICK OF THE MEDIA

03/10/19 unison.org.uk

[Our union will continue to stand with the WASPI women...](#)

29/09/19 heraldscotland.com

[Scottish Government failing on childcare...](#)

07/10/19 sundaypost.com

While the Scottish Government boast about how low business taxes are [schools aren't given enough cash to have librarians](#)

04/10/19 morningstaronline.co.uk

Brexit isn't the answer, but that doesn't mean there aren't some [serious questions to be asked of the EU](#).

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:**

[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

TOOLKI

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that is a political choice not an economic necessity.

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