



**Issue 280    17th February - 1st March 2020**

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### **Scottish Budget 2020-21 - selling us short**

What is being proposed by the Scottish Government sells the people of Scotland short. Yes spending is going up - but that is almost entirely as result of decisions taken by the UK government. The Scottish Government is making little use of its own considerable powers to properly fund services. Councils remain grossly underfunded. An increase in overall funding is of little account if the Scottish Government has decreed what all of that money should be used for meaning other services must be run down. As well as deciding how much money councils are to get - and how it is to spent - The Scottish Government takes a massive say in how much money councils can raise. through council tax caps. This means that Councils are having to try and keep themselves afloat by directly charging for services - which is the most regressive form of funding possible. More regressive even than the council tax, which incidentally Scottish Government have been saying they will abolish for 13 years.

Despite clear difficulties in funding services the Scottish Government has persisted with its low tax approach to businesses. Their own estimate is that this cost £700m last year - the economic benefit of which isn't so much uncertain as deliberately left unexamined. Continuing this subsidy at such a clear point of public need is a mistake.

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### **2020 Women's Conference**

The UK's biggest women's conference convened in Bournemouth with a packed agenda. Conference reports from a Scotland perspective and where Scotland delegates are particularly involved are [here](#).

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## **Sexual harassment is a workplace issue**

Sexual harassment is against the law but sadly, it's still happening in ordinary workplaces everywhere. [UNISON's new guide](#) is aimed at UNISON branches and stewards to negotiate policies that prevent, tackle and deal with incidences of sexual harassment and help promote an

ethos of zero tolerance. 4 out of 5 people don't feel able to report it to their employer. This has got to change – let's make it happen. UNISON joins the TUC and more than 30 other organisations in calling on the government to take [immediate action](#) on sexual harassment in the workplace.



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[Read our response](#) to the Scottish government consultation on Planning Performance and Fees

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## The frontline of social care

'They say we're all angels. Well, pay us then.' A UNISON special feature investigates the state of social care in the UK.

➤ [Find out more](#)

It's a bit blowy outside .... Here's the STUC /Scottish Government  
Fair Work Charter for Severe Weather

PICK OF THE MEDIA

20/02/20 *heraldscotland.com*

Solidarity with our UCU comrades.

19/02/20 *bbc.co.uk*

Cosla: Scottish councils need £300m 'just to stand still'

18/02/20 *eveningexpress.co.uk*

Survey by UNISON reveals Aberdeen council staff stress 'at all time high'.

12/02/20 *unison.org*

UNISON leading the way

11/02/20 *bbc.co.uk*

UNISON taking the care workers' case to the supreme court.

UNISON's General Secretary Dave Prentis BLOG



**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 that is a political choice not an economic necessity.

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