

# UNISON WEEK

News and views from the biggest union in  
Scotland's public services



Issue 281 2nd - 8th March 2020

## Stage 3 Proceedings: Budget (Scotland) (No.4) Bill

We are as happy as anyone that Kate Forbes assertion that "In allocating those resources, we have used every fiscal lever that we have to the fullest extent. Every penny is accounted for " has turned out not to be true and that she has found £173m down the back of the settee sorry, available via revised forecasts, assumptions and reprofiling. This still **doesn't make it a good budget** - merely a less bad one.

Local Authorities are making cuts and budgets for other services are inadequate (see the policing article below). Meanwhile the Scottish Government are boasting that Scottish tax payers and businesses are paying less tax than elsewhere in the UK. This at a point of both desperate need and it seems a willingness on the part of the public to **pay more tax to fund services**



## UNISON Submission to Policing Sub Cttee capital resourcing inquiry (Post Budget)

After police stations began to **literally fall apart** last year, Holyrood's Justice Committee began an inquiry into capital spending in Police Scotland. This was part of their pre budget scrutiny of the Scottish Government. They published **their conclusions** in November, the Scottish Government promised to respond soon after the budget. The response came in the form of a **four page letter** from the Cabinet Secretary that really didn't add much to what was known – or offer any significant improvement to the current woefully inadequate situation. The Sub Cttee asked for our comments on the response. We've given them...

## UNISON Scotland response on "Housing to 2040"

To achieve a target of 35,000 new social homes, Scottish Government spending on housing increased during 2016-21. However, the consultation on housing strategy to 2040 makes clear that this level of public funding will NOT continue after 2021. UNISON's response argues for social homes to be the priority. The government's powers over taxation should be used to maintain the level of social house-building and public sector pension funds should be used as an additional source of housing investment.



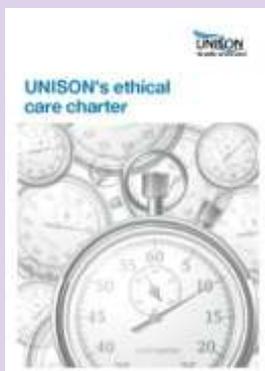
An equal world is an enabled world.  
#IWD2020 #EachforEqual



## Nursing and Midwifery Conference 2020

**All welcome:** nurses, midwives, health visitors and healthcare assistants. Local branch will cover your cost, it is eligible for revalidation portfolio  
Contact local UNISON branch for details.

**Friday 27 March, 9.30 to 3.30**  
**Hallmark Hotel, Washington St, Glasgow**



## Care Workers for Change Campaign

As part of the **Care Workers for Change Campaign**, UNISON has created an **online tool** which helps members to send an email to their local councillors, calling on them to sign the Ethical Care Charter.

45 councils in the UK have taken steps to put decent standards in place by signing UNISON's Ethical Care Charter. This improves the safety, quality and dignity of care.

## **We keep making LGBT+ history**

February was LGBT History Month, so what better time to take a few minutes to consider how UNISON has been making history in the fight for LGBT+ equality. **[Check out our history here.](#)**



## **Zero-hours contracts - ban them now.**

**[Sign the TUC petition now](#)** and demand a ban on zero-hours contracts for UK workers.

## **PICK OF THE MEDIA**

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01/03/20 *morningstaronline.co.uk*

Climate emergency you say? **[compare](#)** and **[contrast](#)**

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25/02/20 *facebook.com/unisonnorthayrshire*

Well done to UNISON's North Ayrshire branch delivering it's member learning workshops "Let's Talk Menopause". **[More information here.](#)**

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25/02/20 *bbc.co.uk*

**[How Scotland's parks could heat homes with low-carbon energy.](#)**

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25/02/20 *bbc.co.uk*

**[Health board cuts out-of-hours care at five centres.](#)**

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25/02/20 *thirdforcenews.org.uk*

**[Dozens of projects face closure as Glasgow delays vital funding.](#)**

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.23/02/20 *heraldscotland.com*

**[The race to save free music tuition in schools as councils hit with budget cuts of £95 million.](#)**

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**[NHS Scotland's self-help guide on the coronavirus](#)**

**[UNISON's General Secretary Dave Prentis BLOG](#)**



# **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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If you have any questions or comments, email: [UNISON Scotland Week](mailto:UNISON.Scotland@unison.co.uk)

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