



Issue 314 24th - 30th May 2021

### Scottish Government Priorities - Decent pay for Local Government?

The First Minister is to lay out the priorities for her government to Parliament. Ensuring a fair pay settlement for Local Government workers should be one of them.

Council staff have gone above and beyond in their response to the Covid pandemic. They are key workers themselves - and without their efforts many other key workers wouldn't have been able to function. They deserve a fair reward and recognition for their continuing efforts.

The current pay offer from Cosla is inadequate **and been comprehensively rejected** by an overwhelming majority of UNISON members (88%). It is not credible for the Scottish Government take a 'not my problem' attitude here. The Scottish Government tightly controls the amount of money councils can raise and, increasingly, how they should spend it - specifying outcomes and ring-fencing funding. They cannot therefore simply sidestep the issue of fair pay for the workforce providing so many lifeline services. It is the task of the Scottish Government to ensure that councils have enough resources to deliver services properly - and doing that means being able to pay their staff.

UNISON are currently **preparing an industrial action ballot**. This is being driven not by an enthusiasm for strike action but by council workers anger at having delivered so much and being treated so badly.

The First Minister will state her government's priorities to parliament - fair pay for a struggling workforce delivering vital services should be one of them.

### Health Pay Update 2021



UNISON has welcomed the Scottish government's announcement to pay NHS uplift 'as soon as possible'. Almost 50,000 members were balloted by UNISON and 35% voted – with 84% voting to accept the pay deal.

Willie Duffy, UNISON Scotland head of health, said: "We are delighted that the Scottish government has agreed to pay this award into the wage packets of hardworking NHS staff. UNISON has campaigned hard for the NHS team throughout this pandemic and our position has always been that this is the best pay deal we could get through negotiation. UNISON will continue its campaign for increased investment, and better conditions and pay across the health and public services to support our recovery from this pandemic." [Read more details.](#)

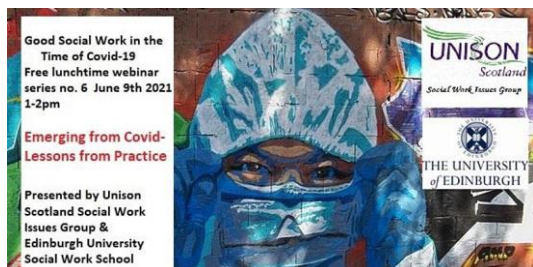
## [Nurses in Scotland are exhausted after pandemic, reveals UNISON survey](#)

## [General Secretary's Blog: The UK government must act on planned Palestinian evictions](#)



## **National Executive Council elections 2021**

Voting closes in the NEC elections on 27th May. Don't let a small minority choose what UNISON looks like. Democracy is at UNISON's heart – and the more of you that vote, the better your union can represent you and be representative of you. [Find out more](#)



## **Good Social Work in the Time of Covid-19 Lunchtime Webinar June 9th 1-2pm**

Free online lunchtime event in series promoting radical and critical perspectives on social work practice in Scotland with Stephen Smellie, Convenor, UNISON Scotland SWIG. [Register now.](#)

## [National Minimum Pension Age – UNISON Scotland response](#)

## [Settled status – under 50 days left to apply](#)

## PICK OF THE MEDIA

22/05/21 [eveningtimes.co.uk](http://eveningtimes.co.uk)

Glasgow Council leader Susan Aitken will meet with union reps over the future of Glasgow Life after **UNISON claims "someone needs to take charge"**.

19/05/21 [holyrood.com](http://holyrood.com)

**Child poverty rising in every council area in Scotland.**

19/05/21 [morningstaronline.co.uk](http://morningstaronline.co.uk)

**UNISON Scotland slam national skills agency for refusing to pilot four-day working week.**

18/05/21 [tuc.org.uk](http://tuc.org.uk)

**BME unemployment is rising 3 times as fast as white unemployment.**

17/05/21 [courier.co.uk](http://courier.co.uk)

**University of Dundee staff vote to strike over pension scheme changes.**

14/05/21 [unison-scotland.org](http://unison-scotland.org)

**Statement from B'Tselem on violence in Gaza and Israeli Occupied Territories.**

**Inside the world of the operating department practitioner - meet our member, Laura Smith, 36, is a second year ODP trainee in Glasgow, studying for her diploma.**



### Support for family and friends of deceased members

We want you to know that if you're the family or friend of a UNISON member that has died, **we're here to help.**

**Coronavirus:  
your rights at  
work**

Read our Q&A



# UNISON members in Scotland who need advice during Coronavirus



Please speak to your workplace rep first. If possible.



Glasgow: 0141 342 2899

Aberdeen: 01224 620624

Inverness: 01463 715891

When you call us you will be asked to leave a message, please do and we will get back to you as soon as we can.



For membership enquiries: 0131 226 0090  
membershipassistancescotland@unison.co.uk

UNISON  
Scotland



Welcome to UNISON Scotland learning!

[Here is](#) our calendar for the courses for first 6 months of 2021.

Build your skills with our national programme **UNISON Learning** - a whole range of courses for our members.

UNISON - ALWAYS WITH YOU

Join UNISON now ►



**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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