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Issue 328 17th - 30th January 2022

Local government unions call for a 'fair and decent' pay increase as they submit joint pay claim

Local government trade unions have submitted a [joint pay claim](#) to COSLA calling for a 'fair and decent' pay increase to make up for decades of cuts and to recognise the vital role these workers have played during the pandemic. Johanna Baxter, UNISON Scotland's head of local government, said: "Youth workers, care workers, refuse collectors, social workers, teaching assistants, community workers, street cleaners and so many more have gone above and beyond during the pandemic keeping schools open, supporting our NHS, ensuring communities are safe and providing essential services often at risk to their own health. Further details [here](#)."

Local govt workers should not be used as a political football between COSLA and the Scottish Government

A green graphic for the 'NOT GOOD ENOUGH' campaign. The words 'NOT', 'GOOD', and 'ENOUGH' are stacked vertically in large, bold, white letters. A white diagonal line strikes through the word 'GOOD'. To the right of the text, there is a short paragraph: 'Energy prices are soaring, a 1.25% national insurance hike and inflation set to rise to its highest level for eight years. Tell your university the 1.5% pay offer for the majority of university staff is not good enough. We need better.' Below this paragraph is a checkbox with an 'X' inside, followed by the text 'Vote yes to strike for a better pay offer'.

HE pay ballot: closes 28 January 2022

We can't wait any longer, 1.5% isn't going to cut it.

Vote YES to strike for the pay you deserve.

When vice-chancellors say they want to prevent redundancies and use that as an excuse to not pay HE staff what they deserve we say that's **not good enough**.

Social care staff are being taken for granted once again

UNISON has criticised as inadequate a move by the Scottish Government to cover registration fees for new carers only – a move which excludes existing carers who have

put their lives on the line throughout the pandemic. UNISON, the union for social care workers, branded the move 'deeply unfair' and urged the Scottish Government to re-think its plans.

UNISON head of social care, John Mooney, said: "It's good that the Scottish Government are now admitting that registration fees are a barrier to social care workers joining the sector. However, in only paying these fees for new staff they are being deeply unfair to the hard-working social care workforce, who have literally put their lives at risk throughout this pandemic. Many already feel taken for granted and this move risks reinforcing that". [Read more ...](#)



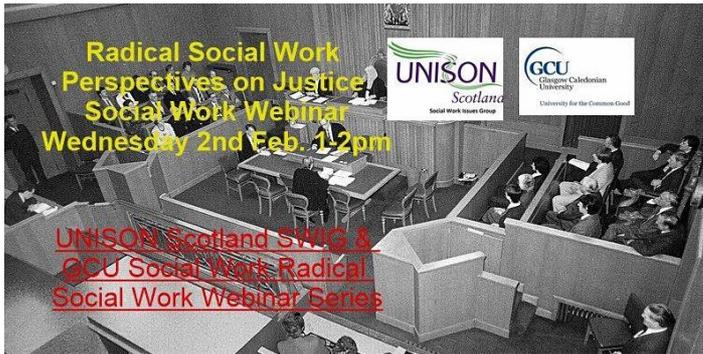
UNISON has dedicated 2022 to a year-long national campaigning and organising strategy to support and celebrate **disabled workers**. Scotland has a particular interest in the campaign as the idea was developed by one of our Scottish branches.

Ovo job cuts devastating for staff and worrying for consumers

The government can no longer stand idly by and watch as the UK's energy sector implodes, says UNISON, as it reacts to the news that 1,700 jobs are to go at energy giant Ovo.

Gillian Bannatyne UNISON Scotland energy lead negotiator said: "This is dreadful news and a very stressful time for the Ovo workforce. It is, so far, a proposal and not a final decision and UNISON is doing everything we can to reduce the job losses and support our members. UNISON have made it abundantly clear that changes in how people get and use energy – as we try to cut carbon emissions – should be an opportunity to create jobs not cut them. Companies like Ovo should be looking to invest, reorganise and expand. UNISON continues to support staff, and we are still in discussions with Ovo to get the best possible terms for our members." [Read more here.](#)

General secretary's blog: It doesn't get more sickening than the ongoing 'partygate'



Free social work webinar:
Wednesday 2nd February
The latest in our free lunchtime radical social work webinars examines Justice Social Work from a critical and radical angle. More info [here](#).

A landmark year for UNISON legal services

PICK OF THE MEDIA

21/01/22 *Herald.co.uk*

"Trade unions and left-wing politicians need to "stop being shy when it comes to talking about class and renationalisation of transport, energy services and essential public services" **Food for thought from the STUC General Secretary**

22/01/22 *tuc.org.uk*

A better normal.

18/01/22 *leftfootforward.org*

Child poverty statistics that shame Britain: 1.8 million children are growing up in deep poverty.

16/01/22 *thenational.scot*

Census reveals growing privatisation of Scotland's care sector.

16/01/22 *dailyrecord.co.uk*

Scots care home system in chaos as more than 150 workers test positive for covid each day.

11/01/22 *unison.org.uk*

Low sick pay is leaving school meals staff unable to self-isolate.

10/01/22 *unison.org.uk*

UNISON supports legal challenge over UK's use of PPE suppliers.



Who is your local champion?

Our annual Local Service Champions awards celebrate the unsung heroes who keep our communities going

➤ Who will you nominate?



Financial assistance for our members

UNISON's charity for members, There for You relaunches its COVID-19 response fund to include universal credit cuts.



Welcome to UNISON Scotland learning!

Here is our online education programme for January to April 2022. As part of its extensive learning and training programme, UNISON offers new members a choice of free one day workshops to help you at work and in everyday life. Build your skills with our national programme UNISON Learning.

Coronavirus: your rights at work

Read our Q&A



7 reasons to join UNISON



UNISON - ALWAYS WITH YOU - JOIN NOW

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To take part in our consultations,
surveys and ballots, we need accurate
information: **your work, email & mobile.**