



Issue 338 23rd - 29th May 2022

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### **Community Wealth Building ... and pay restraint.**

We can't be the only people who can see a bit of a contradiction between a government who can tell people on the Sunday to be " **sensible**". More directly, meekly accept being made poorer with neither complaint nor resistance. Then claim on Wednesday that they are apostles of Community Wealth building.

The official (CPI) inflation rate of 9%. The measure that better reflects ordinary people's lives, RPI is at rate 11.1%. The Joseph Rowntree Trust calculate that inflation as experienced by the lowest earners, who have to spend more of their income on the most severely affected necessities is at 14%. Accepting say a **2% offer** in these circumstances is not "sensible " it is immiserating. Similarly telling workers that their attempts to keep themselves afloat during a cost of living crisis run the risk of causing a recession aren't so much "sensible" as economically illiterate. Letting the value of wages fall sucks demand out of local economies, where wages are spent, as opposed to the **tax havens where the profits** are banked.

Any Community Wealth building strategy worthy of the name has to have investment in public services at its heart. We have been urging **a foundational economy** approach. Using anchor institutions and the building up of the public realm. Wealth building is certainly going on at the moment - particularly by the owners of outsourced and privatised public services. Precious little Community about it though while the wages of the workers who provide the services the rest of the economy is built on to decline in value.

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'Immense Disappointment' that Skills Development Scotland refuse to take part in four-day week pilot

UNISON is immensely disappointed that Skills Development Scotland, the Scottish government's agency tasked with promoting progressive working practices, has failed to apply to be part of the Scottish government's pilot for a 32-hour 4-day week. UNISON welcome that other NDPBs, Scottish Social Services Council, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and Scottish Canals, have applied to take part. More details [here](#).

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## UNISON's carers campaign for change



UNISON visited some of our social care members and activists at Blue Triangle last week. They told us about just some of the things they do and how the cost of living crisis is impacting them and their service users. Read more [here](#).

General secretary's blog: The UK government must invest properly in our nurses

Social work webinar: Exploring community social work's potential in Scotland 8 June 2022

## TUC Cost of Living National Demonstration



Inflation hit a 30-year high. The cost of living crisis is affecting every part of our lives and pushing more and more people into extreme poverty and hardship. UNISON is calling on members to join the union and the rest of the union movement on a [national day of action](#) at events across the UK on Saturday 18 June organised by the TUC. All details [here](#).

# Recognise, Respect Reward

Fair Pay Campaign for  
Local Government Workers

PUT  
NHS PAY  
RIGHT

UNISON  
the public service union

## PICK OF THE MEDIA

20/05/22 heraldscotland.com

**Scotland faces mass strikes as more workers threaten strike action over pay.**

20/05/22 tuc.org.uk

**TUC analysis - homeworking has tripled since before the pandemic.**

19/05/22 tuc.org.uk

**Gender pensions gap means retired women go the equivalent of four and a half months each year without a pension.**

19/05/22 barrheadnews.com

**Council Workers pay dispute threatens to escalate.**

18/05/22 heraldscotland.com

**SNP drop key pledge to close education attainment gap by 2026.**

17/05/22 gov.scot

**The Scottish Government to address the points identified in the SIC's progress report into how the organisation handles Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.**

there  
for you

## Energy Support Appeal

Helping low income and vulnerable members  
with rising energy costs

### There for You launches the Energy Support Appeal

There for You is launching their **Energy Support Fund** to help members through the cost-of-living crisis. In order to support as many members as possible over this year, they are asking for donations from branches.



## UNISON Scotland Activist Education

UNISON has a proud history of providing high quality learning opportunities for our members. We work with trusted national institutions like The Open University and the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) and a host of local providers, and we also deliver informal learning in-house.

Our online education programme for May to December 2022 is [here](#).

### 7 reasons to join UNISON



UNISON - ALWAYS WITH YOU - JOIN NOW

**Update your UNISON details**



**0800 0 857 857**

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