



Issue 339 30th May - 19th June 2022

## UNISON ballots 25,000 school staff and waste and recycling workers for strike over pay after Kate Forbes refuses offer of last-ditch talks



UNISON started an industrial action ballot on Friday 10 June for 25,000 local government workers in schools, early years, waste and recycling across Scotland. The ballot will take 7 weeks and will close on 26 July. UNISON are recommending the workforce vote yes to strike action as the only way left to move the employer's position. They intend to shut schools across Scotland when children return after the school summer break. In a last-ditch attempt to avert industrial action processes UNISON wrote to the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, and Minister of Finance Kate Forbes, on 1 June to ask that they meet with the trade unions to discuss the funding for local authorities to improve the pay offer. Kate Forbes has written to UNISON today and said 'it would not be appropriate to interfere in these negotiations, given their devolved nature' and that 'it is therefore for you to negotiate with COSLA and 'respectfully declined the tripartite meeting being proposed by COSLA'. Read [more](#).



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. [Scottish details here](#)

## Spending Review - A desperate day for public services that will have catastrophic consequences for Scotland's communities

## General secretary's blog: Happy Pride season

## Watch UNISON's General Secretary on BBC's Debate Night

### UNISON wins insourcing of Serco staff at University Hospital, Wishaw

The UNISON campaign has led to NHS Lanarkshire announcing it will take over the contract for cleaning, catering, portering and security services at University Hospital, Wishaw from private contractor Serco. It means the jobs of 400 workers, many held by traditionally low-paid, part-time workers, many of them women, will transfer from private contractor Serco to NHS Lanarkshire later this year. There will be no job losses. Lilian Macer, Convener of UNISON Scotland, said: "This is a major success in the union's campaign to end all outsourcing of NHS contracts putting an end to a two-tier workforce at the Wishaw hospital. It will be better for the workers, their future pensions, the community, the NHS, and the local economy. Workers will now have equal terms to their NHS colleagues and there will be no job losses."

## Social Work Scotland's report: 'Setting the Bar' - Our view

## Radical Social Care Webinar – watch again

**Briefing 119 Inflation & inequality - low income families face higher inflation**

**KEY POINTS**

- Inflation impacts more on those on low incomes, with low-paid workers facing higher heating & fuel costs in their homes
- The cost of living crisis is pushing more people into poverty
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**Bargaining & Campaigns**

[www.unison-scotland.org.uk/publicworks](http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/publicworks)

### Briefing 119 Inflation & Equality low income families face higher inflation

[This briefing](#) covers inflation, the differences between ways to measure it, and why it is vital we speak up on behalf of those members who face far higher inflation than the headline rates; in rocketing heating, food, fuel and other bills.

This always matters in pay negotiations, even more so in this crisis. All our members deserve a decent pay increase & uprated mileage & other allowances, as we face the biggest price rises in 40 years.

# PUT NHS PAY RIGHT

UNISON  
the public service union

## PICK OF THE MEDIA

10/06/22 [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)

**Council workers to vote on strike to shut Scotland's schools.**

09/06/22 [clydebankpost.co.uk](http://clydebankpost.co.uk)

**"Public services have already been cut to the bone" and are struggling to cope with the increased demands placed upon them.** Tracey Dalling, UNISON, Scottish Secretary

05/06/22 [dailyrecord.co.uk](http://dailyrecord.co.uk)

**Tracey Dalling, UNISON, Scottish Secretary insists an IndyRef2 was "not a priority" given other issues facing other country.**

30/05/22 [leftfootforward.org](http://leftfootforward.org)

**HMRC admits it's clueless on tax avoidance.**

26/05/22 [tuc.org.uk](http://tuc.org.uk)

**Government "still doesn't have a plan" for giving families long-term financial security**

25/05/22 [scottishlegal.com](http://scottishlegal.com)

**"We need a new Freedom of Information Act with the same boldness of the original committed to the principle that public funding and transparency must go together."** UNISON Scotland's Stephen Low.

25/05/22 [itspublicknowledge.info](http://itspublicknowledge.info)

**Commissioner finds more work required to bring sustained improvement in Scottish Government FOI performance.**

25/05/22 [twitter.com](https://twitter.com)

STUC's Rozanne Foyer **telling it like it is** to the Wales TUC.

20/05/22 [ethicalconsumer.org](http://ethicalconsumer.org)

**Up to half a billion pounds could have been lost to the UK public purse from the corporation tax avoidance of Amazon alone.**

09/06/22 [cnduk.org](http://cnduk.org)

**Bruce Kent**

Upper Clyde Shipbuilders (UCS) work-in: reflections on language and  
leaders 16th June

there  
for you

supporting UNISON members  
when life gets tough

### Get help with school clothing costs this summer

Worried about back-to-school costs? Help is on hand From 24 June 2022, we are setting up a limited fund to help UNISON members on a low income with school clothing costs by way of a one -off payment of up to £70 per child. More info [here](#).



### 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.**

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