



Issue 285 25th - 31st May 2020

Education - Safety first

Safety first has to be - and be seen to be, the priority in any return to Scotland's schools. Those are the findings of a UNISON survey of education staff in Scotland. The survey results show a workforce that is deeply concerned about how safe returning to work will be. Most felt that their workplace didn't have the required level of health and safety expertise - many didn't even think that their premises were cleaned frequently enough to protect them from coronavirus.

UNISON has, and will continue to work with, the Scottish Government, CoSLA and employers in planning the reopening schools. In doing so we have put safe working at the absolute centre of our concerns. This survey shows that if any progress is to be made, it has to be central to everyone's actions - and that for plans for reopening to be viewed with confidence by staff unions will have to be involved in developing them - at every level from the ground up.

Details of the survey can be found [here](#)

CORONAVIRUS: UNISON Pressure Secures Sick Pay and Death in Service Benefit for Care Staff



Everything you need to know on Coronavirus and your rights at work [here](#).



LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS' SURVEY

This is a survey for all UNISON members. UNISON Scotland is campaigning to ensure our members receive the support and resources they need to protect our communities. This survey will inform our campaign for local government "Fighting together today for a better future tomorrow". Take part [here](#).



TAKE OUR CORONAVIRUS SURVEY

This is a survey for all UNISON members. UNISON Scotland is campaigning to ensure our members receive the support and resources they need to protect our communities. Take part [here](#).



UNISON's Scottish Secretary, Mike Kirby, **wrote** to all MSPs urging them to support the pro trade union amendments being proposed to the Coronavirus Bill which had its final reading in parliament last Wednesday.

The amendments include proposals to include instituting National Bargaining to tackle the crisis in care homes and making paying the living Wage a requirement in all Covid 19 related contracts issued by Government.

Most of the amendments; on national bargaining in care homes, on making the living wage mandatory in coronavirus related contracts and a fund to support roving health and safety reps to ensure safe working as the lockdown is eased, were opposed by the Scottish Government and did not pass.

Dave Prentis, UNISON's General Secretary, talks to members about support over returning to work.

STUC response to Scottish government framework to exit lockdown

Read UNISON response to Argyll & Bute Health and Social Care Partnership Culture Review Survey results



CONORAVIRUS: Supporting Malawi health workers in the global pandemic.

Malawi health staff at Machinjiri Health Centre have thanked UNISON members for their solidarity during the coronavirus global pandemic. UNISON branches across the UK have raised funds so health staff at the clinic can distribute free soap, buckets and other cleaning materials. [Read more ...](#)



We're Here For You

Members experiencing financial and emotional difficulties can contact our welfare charity, **There for You**, which provides a confidential advice and support service for members and their dependants.

During the COVID-19 crisis, UNISON has changed its processes **to make it easier for members to get legal support at no extra cost**, as part of their union membership.

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

PICK OF THE MEDIA

21/05/20 *holyrood.com*

Coronavirus recovery must address long-standing inequality, says EHRC.

20/05/20 *tuc.org*

New report from TUC '**A Better Recovery**':

Learning the lessons of the corona crisis to create a stronger, fairer economy.

20/05/20 *sohealth.co.uk*

Covid-19: food and health inequalities and the future of public health nutrition.

20/05/20 *bordertelegraph.com*

OVO cuts: Job loss would be 'deeply regrettable', UNISON Scotland regional organiser Gerry Crawley

20/05/20 *commonweal.scot*

"The single greatest failure in devolved government since the creation of the Scottish Parliament": **new expert report shines light on Care Home deaths.**

19/05/20 *unison-scotland.org*

'Tackle the crisis in care homes – support national bargaining' UNISON Scotland urges MSPs

NHS Scotland's self-help guide on the coronavirus



Learning in Lockdown

UNISON has increased the number of online courses. [Find out more](#)

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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.