

## Assessing the impact of yet more austerity cuts

February 2019

The Scottish Government last week [agreed a deal](#) with the Greens on support for the 2019/20 Scottish budget, which means the budget will be passed by Parliament at all stages. This e-brief is a reminder for branches of the importance of cuts impact assessments in our work defending public services from yet more cuts. ([2019/20 Form here](#)) The assessments have a key role in developing our local and national campaigning exposing the damaging impact of austerity, especially in the ways the cuts hurt the most vulnerable.

As UNISON has [highlighted](#) many times, this year's [budget](#) will again bring devastating cuts, particularly to [vital council services](#). This follows what we already know about a decade of cuts, as shown in our [Damage](#) reports. And it highlights the importance of our [Combating Austerity](#) work. Follow our [briefings](#) and [responses](#) for analysis of the budget and key relevant Government and parliamentary developments, consultations etc.

Instead of the Scottish Government making more use of its tax powers to maintain services, it is presiding over serious reductions in local government spending that will hit very hard. UNISON branches have already been active around the country to speak up for services in their areas. Last month saw [Moray UNISON highlighting](#) some of the [biggest cuts to local services](#) in Scotland. Midlothian UNISON has been urging members to [lobby MSPs](#) for more council funding. In West Dunbartonshire, UNISON and our sister unions are [holding a public meeting](#) later this month, opposing further local cuts.

As part of UNISON campaigning, including media work and submitting responses to Scottish Parliament Committees and Government consultations, it is vital to have an overview of the scale and types of cuts being made around the country and across health and local government, Non Departmental Public Bodies, police and fire etc. Each have different budgetary processes and timescales. The Cuts Impact Assessment form asks branches for proposed details (and then actual details, once finalised) of:

- headline budget cuts – the financial details of the cuts, with timescales
- numbers of job losses
- one or more examples of the main cuts where services are being hit, e.g. hospital/ward closures; library closures; increased burial charges; closures of day care centres and local sports centres; roads & winter maintenance cuts; schools crossing patrols reduced, etc.

Branches use all this kind of information expertly all the time. Please share yours with the Bargaining & Campaigns team to help compile a national overview. If we don't have the information, we can't use it on your behalf to help make your case against the cuts.

Branches and Regional Organisers should ensure CIA Forms are completed/updated regularly. Please send completed forms to Fiona Montgomery in the Bargaining & Campaigns team. [f.montgomery@unison.co.uk](mailto:f.montgomery@unison.co.uk)  
CIA 2018/19 Form <http://www.unison-scotland.org/library/CIA-Form-2018.docx>

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