



UNISON
Scotland

Local
Government
Network

for people who care about local government

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Scottish Living Wage through procurement

The Procurement Reform (S) Bill has completed its parliamentary stages. While the procurement solution is not the simple approach we would have preferred, it does for the first time set out a [legal route](#) for councils to spread the benefits of the living wage into their communities. Councils will now be able to include the living wage in their procurement strategies in a way that makes it clear to contractors that, for relevant procurements, bids will be evaluated taking employment policies, including the living wage, into account. It would then be included in the contract and can be enforced through contract performance. There will be new statutory guidance and councils should be reviewing their procurement strategies in light of the legislation.

Scotland – It's Time to Care!



A UNISON [survey](#) of Scottish homecare workers exposed the shocking reality of the country's care services. The messages from the workers who provide care were deeply disturbing. They painted a picture of care in Scotland that nobody would want for their elderly relatives. Renfrewshire has become the first Scottish council to take action by adopting UNISON's Ethical Care [Charter](#). The vulnerable in our society deserve better. What is your council doing to improve the care of older people?

In Brief.....

Progress has been made in reforming pension fund governance in Scotland as set out in our latest Scottish Pensions [Bulletin](#). Unlike in England, councillors will also remain in the Scottish scheme.

UNISON welcomes the interim [report](#) of the Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy. It recognises that local democracy is under pressure from centralisation and we must change the way we think about democracy in Scotland. This reflects UNISON's [evidence](#) to the Commission and our [submission](#) to the parliamentary inquiry into the Flexibility and Autonomy of Local Government.

The Housing (S) Bill is being considered in parliament and will helpfully end the right to buy. But the Bill could do much more about private rented housing, including rent controls. Here's UNISON's [evidence](#).

UNISON [welcomes](#) free school meals and [childcare](#) expansion. But they need to be properly funded.

The spring [edition](#) of Public Service Futures has the latest on public service reform. As does our Public Works [Blog](#)

For more information please contact UNISON's Bargaining and Campaigns team on 0141 342 2811, or email [Dave Watson](#), Scottish Organiser.

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