

RETIREED *members* Scotland news

UNIONS ARE THE SOLUTION FOR THE ECONOMY AND EQUALITY

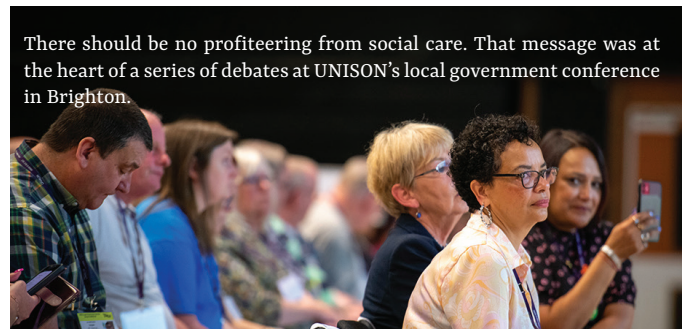
General secretary Christina McAnea and UNISON members appeared at a special event in Westminster that examined how both the economy and gender equality can be boosted through investment in the social care sector.

'Time to Care' looked at the key components that make up the economic case for social care investment and reform – and why social care should be as important to our economic infrastructure as the roads and railways.

For example, more people work in social care than for the NHS – a huge workforce who spend their wages in local economies. Local job creation also reduces the need for traveling, making funding for care jobs also a green investment.

And, crucially, a properly funded social care system is vital to women: not only do they make up the majority of

the care workforce, but women also take on the bulk of unpaid caring responsibilities, which reduces their ability to participate in paid employment.



There should be no profiteering from social care. That message was at the heart of a series of debates at UNISON's local government conference in Brighton.

As the UK seeks to recover from COVID-19 and to deal with the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, there is a pressing need for investment to be prioritised for those industries that have been particularly badly affected by the pandemic and those that can bring a boost to our flagging economy.

Social care ticks both of these boxes.

NATIONAL RETIRED MEMBERS' CONFERENCE

18 – 19 October 2022

Telford International Centre

NATIONAL CARE SERVICE BILL WOULD DEAL A 'FATAL BLOW' TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

UNISON, Scotland's largest local government union, has called on the First Minister not to put care at the bottom of her list as she issued a statement outlining measures to help with the cost-of-living crisis.

"It's time to take the profit out of care – not care from councils"

The union is calling on the Scottish Government to protect the most vulnerable by withdrawing the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill as it is not 'fit-for-purpose' and keeps profit in care.

The Bill would see care provided as a for-profit service, leading to the outsourcing of tens of thousands of council workers jobs – and would mean the most personal services relied on by the most vulnerable adults and children in Scotland will

be the subject of contracting and procurement exercises.

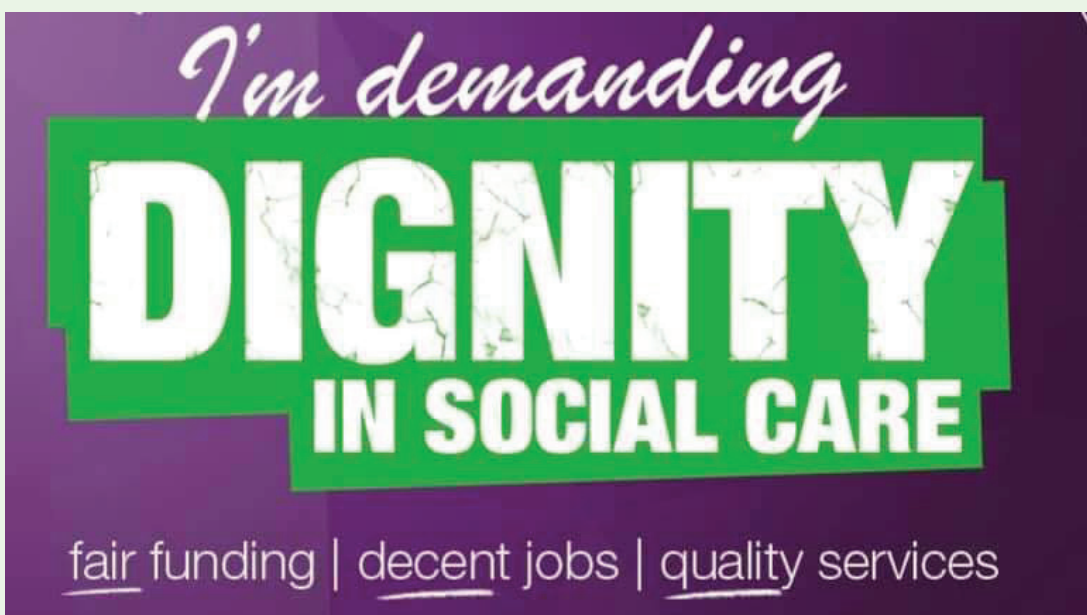
As it stands, the Bill would also give the Scottish Government power to transfer functions and property out of councils and the NHS. In addition, the Bill lacks crucial elements of detail in so many areas that the government is denying Parliament the opportunity to carry out meaningful scrutiny of legislation.

Tracey Dalling, UNISON's Scottish

Secretary, said: "While the First Minister is outlining her plans to protect others during this cost-of-living crisis, we are urging her not to forget the most vulnerable in our society. That's why we are asking the Scottish Government to withdraw the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill.

"What is being proposed is not a valid or effective response to the care crisis. Nor is it a route to high quality social care. Instead we have

a power grab by central government, private companies and tax dodgers. It is a massively centralising move and if the Bill goes ahead it would deal a fatal blow to local government."



UNISON BALLOTS HEALTH MEMBERS ON “DEEPLY UNFAIR” PAY OFFER



NHS UNISON has announced that it will officially ballot its 50,000 members over pay. The ballot will

open on 3 October.

The announcement comes as UNISON confirmed the results of its digital consultation on pay. A consultative ballot is the first stage of the process toward industrial action. To take strike action the union must

now run a postal ballot.

In a letter to the First Minister the union confirmed that 83% of its members had voted to take industrial action over pay after a government offer of 5% increase across the board.

UNIVERSITIES COST-OF-LIVING STRIKE

UNISON Scotland members at four Scottish universities are set to strike for five days in September

and October.

UNISON members at Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian, Napier and Robert Gordon universities will take strike action on September 19th, 20th, 21st and October 3rd and 4th. With UNISON branches at other institutions set to either

ballot or re-ballot over the same dispute, other Scottish sites may join the action later in the autumn. UNISON members at the University of Dundee will also strike for two weeks from September 19th in a bitter dispute concerning local pension provision.

COMMON WEAL

Scottish think tank and advocacy group which campaigns for social and economic equality in Scotland.

Energy Strategy & Just Transition Plan

The way we use and generate energy will continue to transform in the coming years, affecting our jobs, the way we live and the way we do business. This transformation can be an opportunity to build a wealthier, healthier and fairer Scotland, as well as helping us to meet our ambitious commitments to tackle climate change.

Later this year, a refreshed Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan will be published in draft. This will provide a whole-system vision and route map for Scotland’s future energy system. It will look at how individual parts of the energy system – energy generation, distribution and demand - fit together and interact with one another.

We want to ensure that the energy system of the future works for all of Scotland’s people and that everyone has a chance to have their say on the priorities and where we most need to see action.

Our plans follow the National Just Transition Planning Framework. This aims to build agreement

among those likely to be impacted by the energy transition – including citizens, places, businesses and workers. It should also help to identify ways to maximise or create opportunities for a fairer, greener Scotland, and minimise or reduce risks – for example, of costs falling on those with the least ability to pay.

UNISON SCOTTISH RETIERD MEMBERS



Alicia McCall Scottish regional delegate for Telford conference

meet up on the Monday night for a meal, a few well earned drinks and more information on our Scottish delegates meeting before conference. General information will be sent

out to delegates in the coming weeks I myself will be at conference but I have a new post now on the 'National Retired Members Committee' so this is an exciting time and I'm looking forward to putting our Scottish voice loud and clear and moving forward in our union.

Information on our events through the forthcoming months will be forward to branches to circulate. We have our Scottish Retired Members day conference in Glasgow marked for March 2023, our bowling day trip is also back on for 2023 so look out for information coming out. It is with great pleasure that our newsletters and senior mac will be able to resume publication again as Morag Lawrence from Aberdeenshire Branch has agreed to take on the role as editor.

This has been such a hard few years with covid hitting our way of communication as branch offices were closed while folk worked from home. Our unison retired members have been left out in the cold as not all retired members have a social media connection laptop or other devices so getting information out such as newsletters etc has been at times impossible. Future newsletters from our committee to members will hopefully not be relying on internet etc. UNISON Scotland Retired Members Committee would like to thank Liam Chamers from Fife Branch for his long time hard work and commitment to producing our newsletters and senior mac for our members over the years, Liam's knowledge and dedication has been greatly appreciated.

Any information needed please contact myself anytime my mobile number 0795 4380 753 email babsunison@yahoo.co.uk UNISON Scotland Retired Members Committee secretary Barbara Fulton

A short message from Barbara Fulton Scottish Retierd Members Secetary

Hi all well it's been a long two and half years and I'm glad to report that hopefully our branches are getting a bit more back to normal, and our communication to our retierd members is starting to move in the right direction with mailing and some face-to-face events and meetings now taken place. I'm pleased to report that our Retierd Members Committee have met up twice this year in our UNISON head office in West Campbell Street Glasgow and will carry on with our four annual meetings a year and also carry on with our Zoom meetings too, our Scottish Retierd Members Forum has resumed after a couple of months break, as this forum has proved popular and is a great way for our committee to stay in touch with our retired members.

Any unison retired member wishing to join our forum please contact myself, this forum is held virtualy using Zoom on the last Wednesday of every month and we enjoy the oportunity for a chat and for all to have a say on how your Retired Members Committee can move forward in our union.

Now is the time to look forward to our UNISON National Retierd Members Conference in Telford this year from Tuesday 18th October to Wednesday 19th October, our Scottish Regional Delegate this year will be Alicia McCall from our committee, Alicia will be there to look after everyone. As usual our Scottish delegates will

INCREASE IN STATE PENSION AGE FROM 65 TO 66 LED TO INCOME POVERTY RATES AMONG 65-YEAR-OLDS MORE THAN DOUBLING

Between late 2018 and late 2020, the state pension age for men and women rose from 65 to 66, meaning that the approximately 700,000 65-year-olds in the UK had to wait another year before they could receive a state pension. The key impact of this was that 65-year-olds missed out on state pension income of £142 per week on average.

These reductions in state pension income meant that the absolute income poverty rate for 65-year-olds rose by 14 percentage points, or nearly 100,000 people, to reach 24% by late 2020. The higher state

pension age also encouraged around 9% or 60,000 more 65-year-olds to stay in their job and retire later.

These are some of the key findings of new research published in June by

researchers at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, which has been funded by the Centre for Aging Better. More information on these findings can be found [here](#).

POVERTY IS A CHOICE MADE BY THE POWERFUL

The state pension could be worth more than £10,000 for the first time ever next year, as it looks set to rise by CPI inflation.

Earlier this year, the government committed to restoring the 'triple lock', which had been changed to a 'double lock' for 2022-23. This means state pension payments will increase by

either (CPI) Consumer Price Index inflation in September, average earnings growth between May and July, or 2.5% – whichever is higher.

New Prime Minister Liz Truss has previously promised to reinstate the triple lock, but is likely to come under pressure to u-turn due to the squeeze on public finances.



"The Resilience and Contributions of Older Women"

SCOTTISH PENSIONERS' FORUM

DEMONSTRATION TO MARK

UNITED NATIONS OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY

HOLYROOD, EDINBURGH

THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2022

To mark UN International Day of Older Persons 2022, the SPF, in conjunction with its members and affiliates, will be demonstrating outside The Scottish Parliament and calling for Ministers and MSP's to recognise the burden the cost of living crisis is having on older people, with particular emphasis on older women who have suffered from pay and pension inequality throughout their lives.

Join with us to make our voices heard

We will be assembling from 10.45AM outside the Scottish Parliament

PLEASE BRING YOUR BANNERS ALONG

AFTERWARDS, JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION ON OUR WORK AND SOME LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AT A LOCAL VENUE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 0141 337 8113

email: spf@stuc.org.uk

CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER DEAL FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND SINCE 1992



LOYALTY CARDS COMPARED

Find out how Nectar, Tesco Clubcard, Boots Advantage and other

popular loyalty cards compare – and how to get the most out of them.

	What does membership give you?	Points per £1 spent in store	Earn/use points through partners?	1 point worth	Return on spend (%)	Spend £100, get
Boots	Points	4	No	1p	4%	£4
Co-op	Return on spend for you and a local cause, plus exclusive member deals	N/A	N/A	N/A	2% into membership account + 2% to local cause in your community	£2
Iceland	Credit and discounts	N/A	N/A	N/A	5% (add £20 and you get £1 extra)	£5
Lidl	Discounts	N/A	N/A	N/A	2%, or 5% if you spend £200+ in a month	£2, or £10 if you spend £200+ in a month
Nectar	Points and offers	1	Yes	0.5p	0.5%	50p
Superdrug	Points	1	No	1%	1p	£1
Tesco	Points and offers, plus exclusive member deals	1	Yes	1%	1p	£1

HOW MUCH PENSION CREDIT COULD I GET?

Pension Credit comes in two parts. You might be eligible for one or both parts. Guarantee Credit tops up your weekly income to a guaranteed minimum level: **£182.60 if you're single**

£278.70 if you're a couple.

Savings Credit is extra money if you've got some savings or if your income is higher than the basic State Pension. It's available to people who reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016. You could get up to: £14.48 extra per week if you're single £16.20 extra per week if you're a couple.

By claiming Pension Credit, you might unlock other benefits too,

If your retired and your income is less than £200.00 a week it's important that you apply for pension credit. The credit amount might be minimal but the fact you qualified opens up your entitlement to many other benefits including a free TV licence when you reach the age of 75.

such as help with health and housing costs.

Independent advice and info available from energy action Scotland website or if can't resolve issue with supplier contact **Advice Scotland Consumer Service 0808 164 6000**