

## THE NEWSLETTER FOR UNISON MEMBERS IN MORAY

### NEED FOR STRONG PUBLIC SERVICES—NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM MATT SMITH

31 December 2008  
To all UNISONScotland  
Branch Activists and Staff.

Dear Colleague,  
At New Year it is traditional to look forward with hope, to identify opportunities and challenges ahead and to reaffirm our commitment to the work our members do, and to the policies that we in UNISONScotland promote.

At this time of economic downturn, it is ever more important that we stress the essential work our members do and outline the key role of public services in protecting the vulnerable, providing the essential infrastructure and leading the way out of the economic

gloom created by the unrestrained and irresponsible actions of financiers and others who direct global capital.

That these same people - having demanded that the public sector to bail them out - now choose to attack our public services, those who deliver them and those who depend on them means that UNISON needs to speak up clearly for our members and their work.. Some have been queuing up to try and ensure that Scotland's public services, those who rely on them and especially those who work in them, are penalised for the failures of the private sector. Their attack on the minimum wage, and the constant demand to priva-

tise our public water supply are particularly despicable. UNISONScotland intends to provide the leadership in defending and advancing the case for our public services in the coming year.

UNISON does not forget that our members provide emergency cover whilst most of us enjoy a break at this holiday time. They provide essential care in homes and in the community, for those who cannot care for themselves, and they ensure our essential services - water, energy, safety, roads - continue to function over this period. This work - along with other essential public services - is too often ignored or dismissed.

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*Strong enough to stand up to any challenge...*

### YOUR LEALTA DISCOUNT CARD: USED IT YET?

Your Lealta Discount Card is quick and easy to register - simply visit [www.lealtabenefits.com](http://www.lealtabenefits.com) and follow the instructions. It takes literally 2 minutes. I did it - it took two minutes. Have a look round the site at the various discounts and discounted vouchers available. Dig out the red leaflet that came with your card for a handy list of local companies who participate in the scheme. If there's a company who doesn't yet

seem to be on board, there's a section on the website where you can nominate that company and Lealta will try and get them involved.

Finally, let me know if you use the card and get a discount. It's very easy, simply present the card when you pay. You might get a mention here. In the Lealta Card Discount Happy Shoppers Corner.

Lealta Card Discount  
Happy Shoppers Corner:

Discount Congratulations to:

Alison Kennedy, who got 10% off her food bill at the Cooperage in Elgin.

Richard Adam, who got 10% off a group meal at Akash Tandoori in Elgin.



**'Lealta card?'**

## MESSAGE FROM MATT SMITH (CONTINUED)

Our public services also provide an effective and safe infrastructure for the private sector to use. Whether this means cleansing, utilities, transport networks, education and training, health and safety or many other, this infrastructure will be essential if our damaged economy is to return to any healthy state.

Our public services are very often crucial in ordering goods and services to stimulate demand- especially in

parts of the country that have been forsaken by the private sector. Indeed when private financiers refuse to invest it is the public sector that provides that essential capital.

This is why a healthy public service sector is essential in paving our way out of the economic downturn. The public sector is an essential driver for economic growth.

Of course, in order for these services to deliver as effectively as they should, we

need to ensure that those providing the services are properly trained and resourced, that they are all treated fairly and equally, and that there are enough employed to cover the services. In doing this we will take no lessons from the people who seek to undermine and degrade the conditions and pay of their own private sector workforce, whilst ensuring that their own pay, bonuses and gold-plated pensions are protected.

*'a healthy public service sector is essential in paving our way out of the economic downturn'*

## 'DEFENDING AND ADVANCING OUR PUBLIC SERVICES'



*Matt Smith*

We will lose no opportunity to make these arguments clear in the coming year, to stand up for our members and the services they provide. Please join with us in defending and advancing our public services, please feel free to circulate this letter to all your activists and members and to use, if helpful, in recruiting non-members to UNISON.

Please accept my thanks for the work you have already done on their behalf, and my

best wishes for you, your families and friends for the year ahead.

Sincerely yours,  
M a t t S m i t h  
Scottish Secretary  
14, West Campbell Street,  
Glasgow, G2 6RX



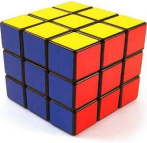
*Big enough to stand strong in an uncertain climate*

*And still care for everyone*




Very many thanks again to all UNISON members who participated in the 2 days of strike action over pay in 2008. Hopefully the extra 0.5% increase which was negotiated as a result made a positive impact on those members struggling to make ends meet over the Christmas period.

**BEE PART OF THE SOLUTION...**




**NOT PART OF THE PROBLEM...**



**VOLUNTEER TO BE A UNISON STEWARD**

**AND FEEL THE BUZZ OF HELPING OTHERS**



**CONTACT: [unison@moray.gov.uk](mailto:unison@moray.gov.uk)**  
**Tel: 01343 563170**

Any altruistic New Year's Resolutions to fulfil?

Becoming a Steward or Branch Officer could be the answer. You could make a valuable contribution to the work of the branch.

Plus you'll gain new skills and experience that will have a positive impact on your life too.

Call the Moray Branch Office on 01343 563170 or email: [unison@moray.gov.uk](mailto:unison@moray.gov.uk)

## EQUAL PAY

There is now an equal pay email contact point on the UNISON Scotland website – [equalpayscotland@unison.co.uk](mailto:equalpayscotland@unison.co.uk)  
 Via this contact point members can request information on equal pay, request an update on their claim, inform us of any change of details, get information on becoming involved in UNISON's Campaign for Fair Pay.

The queries are dealt with by the Pay Equalities Group.

Best wishes

Lynne Duncan

(Organising Assistant- Pay Equalities Group)

01224 629995

A Fair Deal for Scottish Local Government Workers!

## Win a £500 shopping voucher!

Enter UIA's fabulous free prize draw and you could win a £500 shopping voucher to spend at the supermarket of your choice! One lucky winner will be picked at the end of **each** month up to and including December 2009.

Visit the UIA website for full details and your chance to win. Terms and conditions apply. Closing date 31st December 2009.

<http://www.uia.co.uk/UNISON/Competition/>

## DAVE PRENTIS, GENERAL SECRETARY

Huge challenges face us all in 2009 - no-one will escape the effects of the global downturn. Crucial will be government plans to use public investment to create jobs and boost the economy.

This is a path that UNISON has advocated and we will be taking part in actively encouraging full use of public investment to get people through these difficult times.

We are revitalising our Positively Public campaign to make sure that we keep uppermost in the public's minds the key role that public service workers play during recession and recovery.

Let's make 2009 the year of need not greed.



Dave Prentis

A cartoon illustration of a steam train. The locomotive is red with a blue chimney and a blue smokestack. It has large grey wheels and is emitting white smoke from its chimney. The train is moving towards the right.

**Choo**

**Choo**

**Choose...**

**To become a Unison Steward  
We'll train you!**

**Contact: [unison@moray.gov.uk](mailto:unison@moray.gov.uk)**

Anything you would like to see in your Unison Branch Newsletter?  
Puzzles, poetry, pictures— whatever you want to see in print - let me know.

Contacts:

Branch Office: 01343 563170 or [unison@moray.gov.uk](mailto:unison@moray.gov.uk)

Communications Officer: [simon.dix@moray.gov.uk](mailto:simon.dix@moray.gov.uk)

Provisional date for this year's AGM:

Tuesday, 3rd March.

Subject to confirmation, venue to be announced