

Summary of the EIS-FELA All Member Survey – Conducted in September 2022.

Context and Methodology

In order to reach out to members early in the new academic session and factor their views into the strategic campaign planning for the year ahead, an all EIS-FELA member survey was conducted in September 2022.

The response rate of 761 broadly equates to the same number of responses to the COVID 19 related survey undertaken in 2021-22 and represents roughly one fifth of the entire membership of the EIS-FELA.

Members were asked a total of 12 questions that ranged from general demographic information to requests for specific information on concerns and issues currently pertinent to members in their daily working lives.

The survey was conducted via the membership database, allowing for internal communication to be done effectively by email. The length of the survey was extended by two days in order to trial direct text messaging to members from the EIS database. Following the text messages being sent, over 100 further responses were received.

As well as providing information to be used in strategic planning, the survey can also be seen as an initial structure test on levels of membership engagement. As with the previous year, an initial conclusion on this, that can be drawn, is that there is a core of around a fifth of the EIS-FELA membership that are actively engaged with union activity.

Summary of Findings

Just under 60% of members have worked in the FE sector for over 10 years, with the next largest demographic being the 20% who have worked in the sector for 6 to 10 years.

Just over 50% of members have worked in the same college for over 10 years.

61% of members are on full time permanent contracts with just under 35% on part time permanent contracts.

Over 90% of respondents had participated in industrial action during their membership of the EIS-FELA.

Just over 57% regularly attended branch meetings.

Just over 97% regularly used emails as their preferred way of receiving union information, with just under 45% using their branch also. Post and text messaging (though latter not used often) scored lowly, while just under 30% utilised social media to receive information.

Individual College Concerns

Just under 70% of those that responded saw budgetary pressures on their college as a significant concern.

68% of members responding cited workload as a pressing concern in their daily working lives.

61% of respondents expressed concern relating to college management as a concern within their college.

47% of those that responded cited resourcing as a continuing issue at work.

26% stated that instructor/assessor type roles remained an issue within their college.

Just over 20% of respondents reported that issues relating to transfer to permanency was an ongoing issue within their college.

Sector Wide Concerns

Of those that responded, 83% reported that budgetary concerns were the most significant issue facing the sector.

Just over 70% of respondents cited workload for lecturers as a significant sector wide concern.

Just under 60% of members responding stated that management culture/approaches within the sector was a pressing concern.

49% of respondents cited college resourcing as a major concern.

Just over 44% of members reported that instructor/assessor type roles remained a sector wide issue.

Just over 20% cited the application of transfer to permanency as an ongoing issue within the FE sector.

The Cost of Living Crisis

Only a small proportion of respondents (0.5%) expressed no concern at all regarding the growing cost of living crisis in the UK, while just over 60% of members responding stated that they were "very" concerned.

Just over 32% of respondents stated that they were "moderately" concerned regarding the cost of living crisis, while just over 6% expressed slight concern.