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Please support your lecturers in their campaign for fair pay

EIS-FELA is the trade union that represents college lecturers across Scotland. We campaign for fair working conditions and the highest standards of learning opportunities for the students that we serve.

A fair pay award for college lecturers forms one of six key demands of the Fighting for the Future of Further Education campaign. Put alongside the other key demands, fair pay is part of a vision of a well-funded, learning focussed further education system for the public good.

Despite declining to mention it publicly, College Employers Scotland have made clear that their latest pay offer would be funded through hundreds of job losses across the FE sector. Such a situation is unacceptable to EIS-FELA: we will never trade jobs for pay.

The EIS has written previously to all college Principals in Scotland, and to College Employers Scotland, asking them to publicly join with us and call on the Scottish Government instigate an emergency funding package to avert the growing crisis in FE. There have been no replies to this letter.

The Scottish Government must work with College Employers Scotland to ensure that any pay award to college lecturers is fully funded. By doing so, they can make a clear commitment to no job losses resulting from any pay award.

College lecturers should have received a pay award a year ago and have weathered one winter already during a cost-of-living crisis. The delays caused by College Employers Scotland, alongside the absence of leadership from the Scottish Government must be addressed now.

Left with no option, members of EIS-FELA have been engaged in a work to contract and resulting boycott since May 2023. Such a decision has been extremely difficult for every member due to its impact on students.

Through September and October, we will also undertake a programme of national and rolling strike action, alongside targeted strike action in the constituencies of key Scottish Government ministers. It is hoped that this escalation will finally force sense on the part of College Employers Scotland and the Scottish Government, and push them to produce a fully funded pay offer that can end this dispute.

Collective action is challenging, but it is the only way to turn the tide in the fight for the future of Further Education. Please support your lecturers in their campaign for fair pay and in the wider Fighting for the Future of Further Education campaign.

Your support matters!