



The Educational
Institute of Scotland

NEWS RELEASE

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EIS EXECUTIVE AUTHORISES UNIVERSAL HARDSHIP PAYMENTS TO FE LECTURERS ON STRIKE

A special meeting of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) Executive Committee has today authorised the payment of universal hardship payments to Further Education college lecturers engaged in ongoing strike action over pay. Members of the EIS Further Education Lecturers' Association (EIS-FELA) have taken six days of unpaid strike action to date in their continuing campaign to secure a fair pay settlement from college management. Following today's decision by the EIS Executive, all EIS-FELA members engaged in strike action will be eligible to receive a daily hardship payment for each future day of strike action.

Commenting, EIS General Secretary Larry Flanagan said, "Our members in the FE college sector are continuing to stand firm against an intransigent management side that has shown absolutely no interest in settling this dispute. Our members are seeking only a fair pay settlement, and EIS-FELA negotiators have made every attempt to find ways of reaching an agreement. Sadly, however, college managers have refused to budge from their entrenched position and have displayed a distinct lack of urgency in seeking a resolution. These are not the actions of a group that has the best interests of staff, students and the wider college community at heart."

Mr Flanagan added, "It appears as though the management side is content for this dispute to drag on endlessly, with serious implications for students and staff alike. The hardship payments authorised by the EIS Executive today will help to reduce the financial detriment being suffered by our members in their continuing stand against a belligerent management group. While college managers may not care about the harm being done to lecturers and students, the EIS does. Lecturers want to be at work and offering support to students – college management must show a willingness to find a resolution to this dispute to allow this to happen."

There are currently a further 15 days of strike action scheduled to take place before the summer, with the next strike day set for tomorrow (Tuesday 17 May). EIS-FELA members taking strike action from tomorrow onwards will now be eligible to receive a payment from the EIS for each day of action taken. EIS FELA members are engaging also in action short of strike, which includes a results withholding action.

(ENDS)

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