

National Bargaining News

January 2019

News from the national negotiators

A New Year but we are still waiting...

Despite assurances of a meeting early in January, the Management Side has now advised that it is unable to meet with us ahead of the third national FE strike in three years. This is despite having our revised pay claim on the table, seeking a cost of living pay rise in line with the offer made to the support staff and public sector pay policy.

We submitted this claim in mid December and made it clear that we would be available for talks before or after the Christmas break, but it seems that management are content to see further strike action disrupt the sector and damage our students' learning.

We have sought compromise throughout this dispute and, have repeatedly amended our claim and even wrote to man-

agement in October inviting them to make a revised offer reflecting public sector pay policy, Management has refused to budge and has made no attempt to negotiate meaningfully with us. They have had weeks to consider our latest proposals and two years to resolve this dispute. As we enter 2019, it is worth reflecting that our members have had no cost of living pay rise since 2016.

We are clear—the responsibility for further strike action lies firmly with Colleges Scotland and the Employers' Association, and if the Scottish Government is serious in its commitment both to Further Education and to the Fair Work Convention, it needs to stand by its pay policy and direct management to negotiate now!

Our campaign is two-pronged—an escalating campaign of strike

action starting on 16th January, and a political campaign with letters to MSPs, petitions, social media and a lobby of Parliament at lunchtime on the strike day. Buses have been organised from across the Central Belt—please contact your branch secretary to book a seat.

The strike action starts with one day of action—but further strike dates have been scheduled for 5th February and 6th and 21st March.

Management has indicated that they can meet us towards the end of January. Time will tell if this will result in meaningful negotiation.

We need YOUR support to win this campaign, defend national bargaining and secure a fair cost of living pay rise!

STRIKE DAY WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY

Lobby at the Scottish Parliament, 12.30pm

- **Have you signed up for picket line duty?**
- **Contact your branch secretary to book a place on the bus for the lobby— make sure our MSPs hear our voice!**
- **Keep the political pressure on—contact your MSP, use the petitions and speak to your students**
- **Follow us on social media, hashtag #NegotiateNow and share your strike day pictures**

www.facebook.com/honourthedeal

Twitter: @EISfela