

# KEEP SHETLAND COLLEGE PUBLIC



# CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

Shetland College EIS-FELA branch had first expressed their opposition with proposals for privatisation to the first merger project management group, Shetland Tertiary Education, Research and Training (STERT) in December 2014. The proposal for non-incorporation was formally included in the Shetland Island's Council Business Case report that was considered by College Lecturers' Joint Consultative Committee (CLJCC) on 6th December 2018. EIS-FELA Shetland College branch again stated their opposition to non-incorporation at this meeting. The Shadow Board who are appointed to oversee the proposals for the merger hold their first meeting on the 30th April 2019. Shetland College EIS-FELA Branch Secretary is delegated to the Shadow Board.

**2018**  
16th MAY

EIS National Officer sends letter to Scottish Funding Council expressing concerns about proposals for the non-incorporation (privatisation) of the new merged college in Shetland.

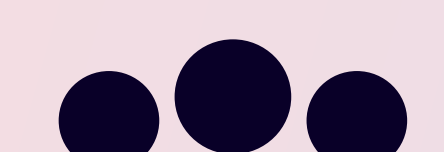


**2019**  
15th MARCH

EIS-FELA Conference unanimously approves motion to oppose privatisation of new college in Shetland.

Presentation to Shadow Board on EIS-FELA incorporation

**2019**  
26th JUNE



Shetland College Shadow Board recommends non-incorporation despite our concerns. All but one agrees recommendation.

**2019**  
31st JULY

Various letters sent to Deputy First Minister from EIS President and General Secretary expressing concern about non-incorporation.

**2019**  
JUNE - DECEMBER



The EIS FELA Branch and EIS nationally reach out to MSPs.

**2019**  
OCT

**BREAKING NEWS**  
EIS releases press statement.

**2019**  
11th OCT

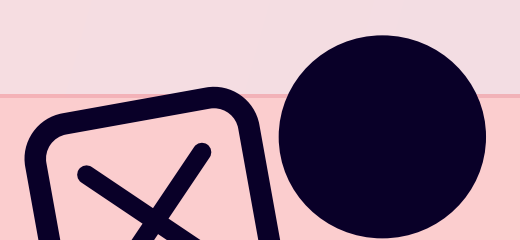


EIS General Secretary Larry Flanagan visits Shetland and meets with EIS-FELA Exec members. Over the last number of months representatives from the National EIS-FELA Executive Committee have also visited and met with branch members.

**2019**  
15th NOV

Hustings – all Shetland constituency by-election candidates support college remaining a public body.

**2019**  
3rd DEC



Community support – campaign stalls are held in Shetland and we meet with student representatives - around 400 signatures are collected on petitions. Nearly 800 signatures are gathered nationally.

**2020**  
13th JAN

First College Lecturers' Joint Consultative Committee (CLJCC) on the merger which takes over two hours.

The EIS FELA Branch send letter to Shetland College Principal and Principal designate opposing non-incorporation.

**2020**  
14th JAN

200 postcards are delivered to the town hall for all 22 councillors. On the same day around 800 signatures are delivered to the Scottish Funding Council from the EIS FELA Executive opposing the privatisation of further education in Scotland

**2020**  
7th FEB

Keep Shetland College Public joint actions take place in Shetland and Edinburgh. Over 1200 petitions signatures are handed over to the Shetland Islands Council Convenor and Scottish Funding Council.



Rhoda Grant MSP raises the issue in the Scottish Parliament

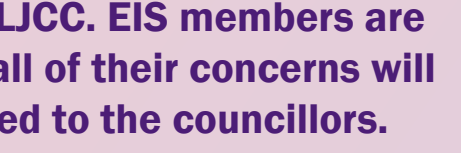
**2020**  
12th MARCH

EIS FELA Branch at Shetland College organise a virtual action. Over 1100 people email Councillors and take part in the online action which receives widespread support. Shetland Island Council holds virtual meeting without observers from the college present to agree the ministerial merger business case. No answers are provided to the EIS members' concerns.

**2020**  
20th APRIL

Second CLJCC. EIS members are told that all of their concerns will be reflected to the councillors.

**2020**  
11th APRIL



UHI consultation – they requested 12 weeks due to incorporated vs non-incorporated issues BUT the stakeholder questionnaire does not make the issues clear and it is conducted during pandemic and over summer.

**2020**  
22nd APRIL

**2020**  
13th JULY

Third CLJCC Ongoing informal meetings about TUPE.

**2020**  
14th JULY

On this date SFC were originally due to consult for 12 weeks but ended up being for just 1 and a half weeks – and staff / students not seen any details of it.

**2020**  
19th AUGUST

SFC consultation meeting takes place for 45 minutes, with 12 staff attending – 4 minutes each. At the request of EIS-FELA a further meeting was arranged for 9th October.

**2020**  
2nd OCTOBER

CLJCC held at which the Council confirmed that all Lecturer Ts&Cs, staffing policies / procedures and custom / practice (or implied Ts&Cs) will transfer across to Shetland UHI on vesting date. BUT there is a clear indication that all implied Ts&Cs i.e. not national Ts&Cs will be open for negotiation fairly soon thereafter.

**2020**  
7th OCTOBER

MSP/Education & Skills Committee briefing.

**2020**  
15th DECEMBER

Letter from DFM stating no Scot Gov consultation required (due to Shetland College not being under F&HE (Scotland) act 1992, which only applies to incorporated colleges).

**2021**  
JAN

Letter to head of SFC from EIS general secretary expressing concerns.

**2021**  
MARCH

Further MSP briefing letter.

**2021**  
MARCH

SFC response to EIS general secretary.

**2021**  
APRIL

Letter to SFC emphasising no response to query on SFC advice to shadow board to opt for privatisation.

**2021**  
JUNE



New merged college named Shetland UHI opens as private limited company despite concerns raised by local staff, unions and community for over two years.

**2021**  
AUGUST

Scottish Government re-commits to keeping FE colleges in public sector by disregarding SFC recommendation for ONS re-classification of FE colleges as private entities. Shetland UHI remains a private ltd company.

**2021**  
OCTOBER

Shetland UHI proposes a restructure with redundancies. The Principal states the SFC did not sign-off on the financial forecasts of the college, pre-merger. The Transition Board were never told this. The new college is still not a signatory to national bargaining despite assurances that this should not take long. Members are now concerned that it will take at least 12 months to sign up to the NRPA.

**2022**  
JANUARY

**2022**  
PRESENT

The Branch and FELA Exec will continue to make the case to Keep Shetland College Public.

Will you join us?

