

### SIGN UP For Public Services

The public sector has the experience and skill to deliver modernised world class public services – if it is given the backing and resources. That is the message UNISON has been hammering home to the prime minister and the government since the general election.

Moray UNISON is playing its part in campaigning locally with The Moray Council who will be at the heart of the decision making process on



the future of local public services. Ken Matthews, Branch Secretary, has written to all of the elected members within the council seeking support in UNISON's Positively Public campaign and asking them to sign the declaration of support contained in the Charter for the Public Services.

Moray branch is also asking for your support in getting signatures to the charter. **Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the Charter and we would ask that you get a friend or colleague to sign the**

**declaration at the end of the Charter and return it to UNISON.**

**In the August issue of UNISON's national member's magazine, "U", each member received a postcard "Keep public services PUBLIC". SIGN THIS AND RETURN IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

If you would like to get further copies of either the charter or the postcard, contact the branch office and we'll get them to you.

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## **MEDICASH**

### **THE UNISON ENDORSED HEALTH CASH PLAN**

**Optical and Dental benefits – up to £216 per year**  
**Complementary treatments, Maternity benefits**  
**Contribution Protection Cover**  
**Children covered free!**

### **SPECIAL IMMEDIATE COVER OFFER**

### **FOR MEMBERS OF MORAY UNISON BRANCH**

**LOOK OUT FOR THE LEAFLET AT WORK!**

**For more information contact: 0151 702 0235**

**Email: [directmembers@medicash.org](mailto:directmembers@medicash.org)**

**[www.medicash.org](http://www.medicash.org)**

### **Campaign begins to bite**

UNISON's Positively Public Campaign has taken a firm stance against what General Secretary, Dave Prentis has called "The new government's romance with the private sector"

In the media and at meetings with the Prime Minister and the Labour Party, Dave has lost no opportunity to make clear UNISON's view opposing the increasing involvement of the private sector in delivering our public services.

Immediately after the general election result UNISON released the results of a poll showing that 78% of people in the UK felt that the private sector should not provide public services.

UNISON has recognised the need to reform public services, but has gone on record to attack the government's 'clouded' judgement about what gives the best value for money.

Following Dave Prentis' correspondence with Tony Blair, UNISON's Scottish Secretary, Matt Smith has written to the First Minister and the Secretary of State for Scotland, highlighting UNISON's campaign and emphasising that it applied at least equally in Scotland.

"In Scotland," Matt said, "The percentage of people who think that public services should be provided by the public sector rises to 91%".

"I have pointed this out to Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Government and demanded that they reflect that viewpoint when they are renewing Scotland's public services".

It is now going to be a major debate at the Labour Party and the TUC conferences – raised again by UNISON. Dave Prentis puts it succinctly, "It is a simple challenge", he said. "We asked that they put public services on the agenda, listen to the evidence and have a full and frank debate about the best way to deliver quality public services. This has been done, and we should now be intensifying our Positively Public Campaign".

### **Political Fund Arrangements**

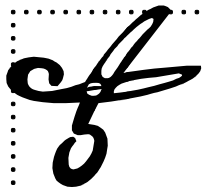
In light of the government's determination to progress with its privatisation plans, delegates at UNISON's annual National Delegate Conference in Brighton voted to review the future of the union's political funds. A wide consultation will take place on the future of the General Political Fund (GPF) and the Associated Political Fund (APF).

The APF provides financial support to the Labour Party.

### **Single Status Bulletin – Issue 1**

Members employed in The Moray Council should all have received a copy of the **Single Status Bulletin**. Many thanks to all who returned the response sheets – they have provided excellent information to the branch.

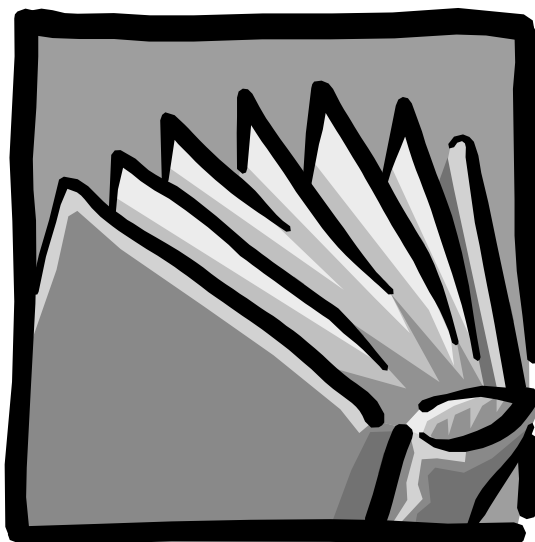
A further bulletin will be distributed shortly giving details of the responses as well as an update on the current negotiations.



## UNISON DIARIES 2002

If you would like a free copy of next years UNISON diary please enter your name below and cut out and post this form. (There is a FREEPOST address on the reverse side)

NAME :- .....



### Attack on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon

The tragedy on 11<sup>th</sup> September took a massive toll on UNISON members' counterparts in the USA. Reports at 15<sup>th</sup> September had 1,000 union members still unaccounted for. Within minutes of the tragedy, construction workers contacted the iron workers union with offers of help. By the time the National Guard called the union over 1,000 union members were available. The union set up three teams of recovery workers to be rotated including experts in asbestos handling. The health workers union reported that so many of their members volunteered to help that the Health Department couldn't handle the volume. The bakers union gathered over 20,000 face masks which were delivered by the teamsters union along with communication equipment requested by the Red Cross. The NY State Psychological Association sent a disaster response team to help traumatised workers and their families. Also the United Federation of Teachers developed a package to help schoolchildren comprehend the events, stressing the importance of not blaming ethnic groups. The New York City labour council organised a clothing drive for emergency service workers and in Washington, hundreds of union members went door to door gathering volunteers and contributions to the relief effort.

UNISON general secretary Dave

Prentis said "Everyone has been shocked at the unimaginable scale of the death and destruction in the US. Everyone will have their own personal views on the root cause and the action which should now be taken, but for now our thoughts are with the families and friends of those who died – especially the hundreds of public service workers who lost their lives trying to save others. UNISON staff throughout the country observed the three minute silence to honour the victims of the terrorist attacks. Governments around the world now need to focus on joint efforts to counter terrorism and reinvigorate the search for peace in the Middle East. UNISON has sent messages of support to our sister unions in the US. UNISON will be at one with our brother and sister trade unionists in the quest to restore peace and justice to the world."

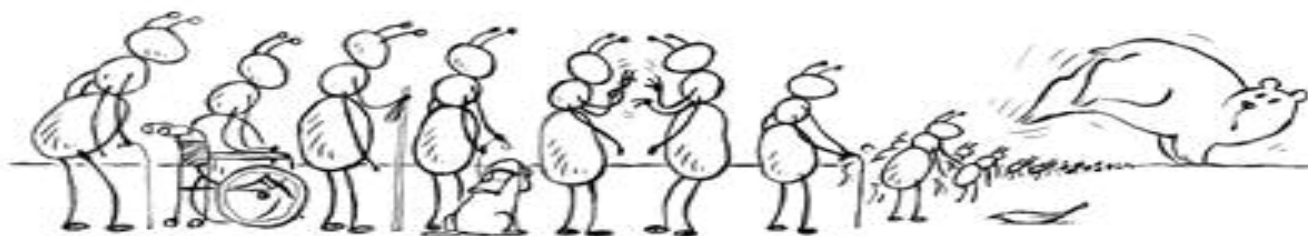
The horror is not over for emergency services, city, state, government and health workers who toil on in the rescue and clean-up effort. Thousands of members volunteered through their unions and many have been injured and traumatised. "Public Service workers at the forefront of the effort to deal with the tragedy have themselves become victims. Our thoughts are with them", said Mike Kirby, UNISON Scotland Convenor. The Union Community Fund – the charity of the US union federation the AFL-CIO – has set up an 11 September Relief Fund to give aid and support. UK residents can donate securely on-line but have to declare themselves not members of any union (only US unions

are listed) and enter any two letters where its says 'state'. Country can be indicated on the 'city' line. To donate online to the Union Communities Fund's September 11 Relief Fund, the AFL-CIO charity, visit [www.unioncommunityfund.org](http://www.unioncommunityfund.org)

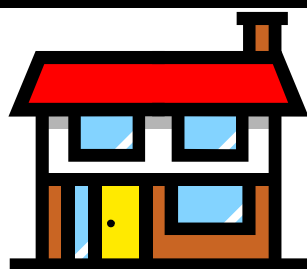
### August is a quarter-million month

Personal injury settlements received for UNISON members in Scotland totalled nearly quarter of a million pounds in August. The settlements ranged from £750 - £90,000 for 28 UNISON members. John Lambie, Assistant Scottish Secretary said "What is important also to remember when these claims are necessary, is that pursuing them through UNISON means that there is no 'success fee' to be paid to the lawyers. Unlike many 'no-win, no-fee' firms advertising on TV, our lawyers do not charge winning claimants huge insurance premiums.

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**If any member requires a copy of the newsletter in large text or even an audio copy please contact the branch office and we will look into providing one.**



**Housing transfer challenge**

**from unions**

UNISON will be holding a Press Conference before its UK-wide housing seminar, in Glasgow. This will explain UNISON's role and detail the steps in the Scottish trade union campaign against the proposals for Housing Stock Transfer being proposed for Glasgow City Council and other councils. Present will be Malcolm Wing National Secretary of UNISON's Local Government Group and Bill Speirs, General Secretary, STUC. Mr Speirs will outline the next steps in the unions' Scottish campaign against whole stock transfer and Mr Wing will concentrate on the various moves to take housing out of Local Government across the UK.

**If you have read the newsletter and are not a member but would like to join please call the recruitment hotline on 0800 70 70 77 or if you have access to the internet go to :-  
<http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/join.html>**