



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our UNISON Lothian Health Branch Newsletter

April
2025



**Remember the dead
Fight for the living**

28 April
International Workers'
Memorial Day

On 28 April each year, International Workers' Memorial Day (IWMD) is a time to remember those who have died either because of a workplace accident, ill health or diseases as a result of work.



Edinburgh GP Practices/Health Centres -
Are you employed by the NHS and work in a GP Practice/Health Centre?

UNISON are here to support you. Please get in touch if you would like more information about UNISON or would like to Join the NHS Lothian's largest Union.

Already a member – then please contact us for support with any workplace issues you have.

We are visiting all relevant GP Practices over the next few weeks – let us know if you would like to meet with us

Angela Howard



The poster features the UNISON Lothian Health logo at the top. Below it, a text box says: "Phone or pop in to see us to discuss any workplace issues you have or if you want to find out more about joining the UK's largest Union." Two photos of UNISON Stewards are shown: Angela Howard and Jackie Ritchie. To the right, a box lists benefits: "Including:- Sickness Absence, Your wellness to attend work related meetings, Stress related work issues". At the bottom, it states: "UNISON Office based in St Roques, Astlie Ainslie, please call us on 0131 536 7890 - Monday-Friday".

UNISON
Lothian Health

Phone or pop in to see us to discuss any workplace issues you have or if you want to find out more about joining the UK's largest Union.

Angela Howard
UNISON Steward
Edinburgh Team

Jackie Ritchie
UNISON Steward
Edinburgh Team

Including:-
➤ Sickness Absence
➤ Your wellness to attend work related meetings
➤ Stress related work issues

UNISON Office based in St Roques, Astlie Ainslie, please call us on
0131 536 7890 - Monday-Friday

Edinburgh City Chambers – 20 February 2025 - On 20 February, UNISON stewards and members gathered outside Edinburgh City Chambers to lobby councillors ahead of the City of Edinburgh Council's crucial budget meeting. The action aimed to pressure both the Council and the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EJIB) to protect vital third sector services from devastating cuts.

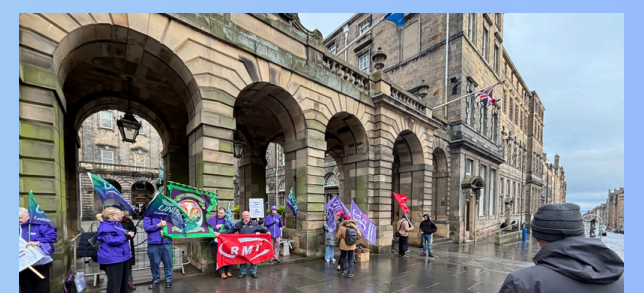
The protest came in response to a looming funding crisis facing 64 third sector organisations, which deliver essential services to older people, carers, disabled residents, and low-income families. UNISON called for the Council to allocate £4.5 million in its 2025/26 budget to sustain these services for another year.

UNISON's Message Was Clear: Protect Services – Protect People

Members warned that cutting these services would not result in savings but instead displace costs onto the NHS. Many of the affected organisations provide early intervention and preventative care—key measures in reducing demand for acute NHS services such as A&E and hospital admissions.

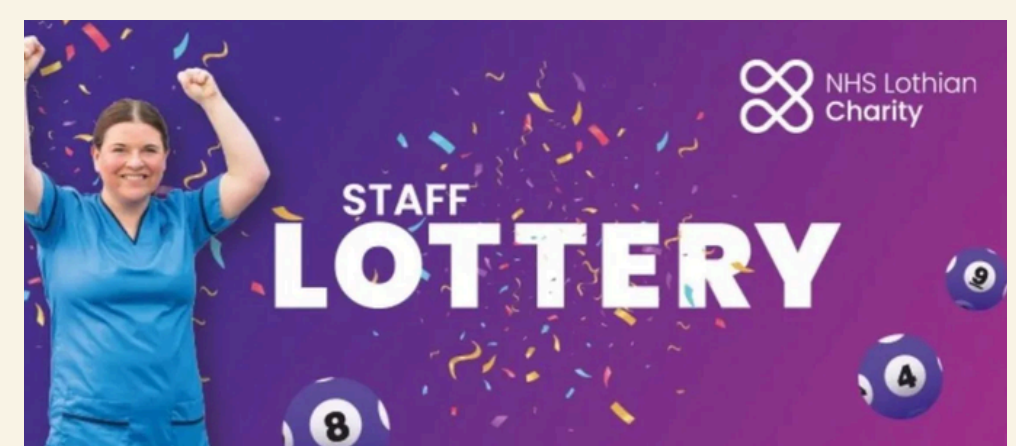
"These cuts would drive people into crisis and into overstretched NHS services. This is a false economy," said a UNISON spokesperson during the action.

Debbie Westood - Private & Voluntary



STAFF LOTTERY -

25 winners EVERY SINGLE MONTH. Will you be one of them? It's simple to play, so if you haven't already, sign up today. The quickest and easiest way to sign up is by visiting: nhslothiancharity.org/staff-lottery.



Jacqueline Keddie attended The Women’s Conference in February 2025. This was Jacqueline’s first conference since becoming a UNISON steward last August, also she was a first time delegate.

Jacqueline found the Women’s Conference very empowering and plucked up courage to address the Women for Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England seeking the vote to take a motion to the National Conference in June on behalf of the Women’s conference. Jacqueline delivered a very powerful but yet emotional speech, which resulted in winning the trust of the audience.

Jacqueline will now take the motion to the National Conference.

Congratulation from your Team within the Western General Hospital, What an achievement.

Stewart Robertson - Lead Western General



International Women’s Day March in Edinburgh - On Saturday the 8th of March, six of your stewards participated in the International Women’s Day March in Edinburgh.

This was the first time that we have attended this march as a Branch, and boy was it good!! The March sun shone for us.

Fiona Stenhouse (Lead Steward for Corporate) was clear that we would not march in the middle or back of the march- and secured our place at the front. Somehow Tracy McBurnie ended up holding part of the front banner!!

We joined forces with Edinburgh City Branch and Trade Unions in the Community

We marched from Mercat Cross to Scottish Parliament where there were a variety of speakers, talking about issues relevant to women such as domestic violence, enforced evictions, austerity, food and period poverty.

Tracy McBurnie - Woman’s Officer.



SAVE THE DATE

May 3rd - May Day March
June 14th - Newtongrange Gala Day
June 2025 - Pride Month
June 21st - Edinburgh Pride
July 2025 - Disability Pride Month
July 12th - Durham Miners Gala
October - Black History Month
November - Young Workers Month

UNISON WINS



Thompsons have won over £37,000 for members of our Branch in legal claims so far in 2025.



The Health and Care Staffing (Scotland) Act – often called the ‘Safe Staffing Act’ – was passed by the Scottish Parliament in 2019 and will come into force in 2024.

The Act places a duty on Health Boards to ensure that: “at all times suitably qualified and competent individuals...are working in such numbers as are appropriate” – both to provide healthcare and (secondary to that) “the wellbeing of staff”.

The act also gives all NHS staff the right to raise concerns about short or inadequate staffing, and have those concerns investigated. The new measures may not have the teeth that we would like – but give staff an important platform to make short staffing an issue that employers can’t ignore.



On 28 April each year, International Workers' Memorial Day (IWMD) is a time to remember those who have died either because of a workplace accident, ill health or diseases as a result of work.



UNISON Lothian Health Stands in Solidarity with Ukraine

- On 5 March 2025, around 16 shop stewards from UNISON Lothian Health Branch joined a demonstration outside the USA Consulate in Edinburgh, standing shoulder to shoulder with other trade unionists, community groups and our Ukrainian friends. The protest, organised in response to the US government’s decision to suspend military support to Ukraine, highlighted the breach of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, which guaranteed Ukraine’s security. UNISON Lothian Health Branch is proudly affiliated with the Ukraine Solidarity Campaign Scotland, reinforcing our commitment to international solidarity. Our Branch Secretary, Tracy Anne Miller, was invited to address the rally, reaffirming our union’s unwavering support for the people of Ukraine in their fight for peace and justice. Trade unionists have always played a vital role in standing against oppression and injustice. As part of Scotland’s trade union movement, we continue to stand with Ukraine.

Tracy-Anne Miller - Branch Secretary





MAY DAY - More than 40 members of the UNISON Lothian Health Branch (plus friends and families) joined several hundred people who took part in the annual Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders May Day march which took place on the 3rd of April. To watch a video of the rally which was held at the Pleasance Theatre click through on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGPt4-6d6Ew>

A great turnout from Lothian Health.

Stewart Young - Comms Officer



Branch Secretary's Corner - So, my first ever entry in Branch Secretary's corner is to pay tribute to Thomas Miller, Lead Steward for East and Midlothian, who peacefully passed away on 22nd March after a short illness. Thomas was also the Partnership Lead for East Lothian H&SCP. Thomas was a Shop Steward for 32 years and started his union career at the AAH and REH before moving to East Lothian 26 years ago. Over these years he helped and represented hundreds of Unison members and the branch has received dozens of tributes from members following his death. Thomas was everything a trade union representative should be - honest, loyal, hard-working, but above all he put his members first and foremost. He never lost his passion and was a very proud Unison Steward. I was lucky and proud to not only call him a comrade, but also my husband.

Tracy-Anne Miller



£ Your NHS Your Credit Union £ Your Money

THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE NHS CREDIT UNION

We believe when it comes to your money, you should be reaping the rewards you deserve.

WE WORK FOR YOU, NOT FOR PROFIT

The NHS Credit Union is a not-for-profit co-operative, owned by its members. Members are the only people that profit from the NHSCU.

Did you know that
25,000 of your
colleagues are already
NHS Credit Union
Members?

LOWER INTEREST RATES

Our interest rates are often much lower than other lenders, and our interest is only charged on the reducing balance – as your loan balance comes down, so does your interest charge.

FLEXIBLE TERMS

Our flexible terms mean we work to your personal situation when considering your repayments, making every loan bespoke to each member.

NO HIDDEN FEES

No hidden fees mean you can make early repayments without any cost; in fact, you will save money on the reduced interest.

PAYROLL DEDUCTION

Sign up and save straight from your pay into your credit union, watch your savings grow and become eligible to borrow.





NHS Credit Union
People Not Profit

FREE SAVINGS AND LOAN PROTECTION

As a member of the NHSCU, you have unique protection provided free in the event of bereavement.



NHSCU HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY

The profit we make is invested straight back into your credit union.

We also invest in your NHS communities through our charitable foundation.

Our members, that's you, may also be rewarded with an annual dividend – the icing on the cake.

WE DON'T BELIEVE MEMBERS ARE DEFINED BY THEIR CREDIT SCORE

We understand credit scores don't tell the full story. Every lending decision we make is based on your personal circumstances and what is best for you, not just your credit history.

SAFE HARBOUR, A CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE

NHSCU provides a confidential service to help members take back control of their money, so only you can access it, find out more on our website.

SCAN TO EXPLORE OUR SERVICES

- 1 Open your phone's camera app.
- 2 Point it at the QR code shown here
- 3 Tap the notification to view our website



UNISON LOTHIAN
HEALTH BRANCH

**WELCOME TO THE
UNISON LOTHIAN
HEALTH BRANCH
WEBSITE.**

WE ARE THE LARGEST TRADE
UNION IN NHS LOTHIAN,
REPRESENTING OVER 12,000
MEMBERS

**Unison Lothian Health
Branch**

2.5K likes · 3.1K followers

This is a page dedicated to providing information and exchanging views with members of the UNISON Lothian Health Branch.

Like Message

Celebrating 2024
Year of LGBT+ workers

Follow

UNISON Lothian health
@LothianUnison

UNISON Lothian Health Branch are dedicated to supporting our members, safeguarding our T&C,s and fighting to ensure our staff are paid appropriately

[Scotland](#)
 unison-lothianhealth.scot
 [Joined July 2020](#)

131 Following 325 Followers

In January 2024 we launched our new Branch website unisonlothianhealth.org to compliment our X, Facebook and Youtube social media channels

**TOGETHER WE RISE
IN UNISON**

UNISON is Scotland's biggest and liveliest public service trade union, representing workers delivering public services across Scotland.

We represent members, negotiate and bargain on their behalf, campaign for better working conditions and pay, and for public services.

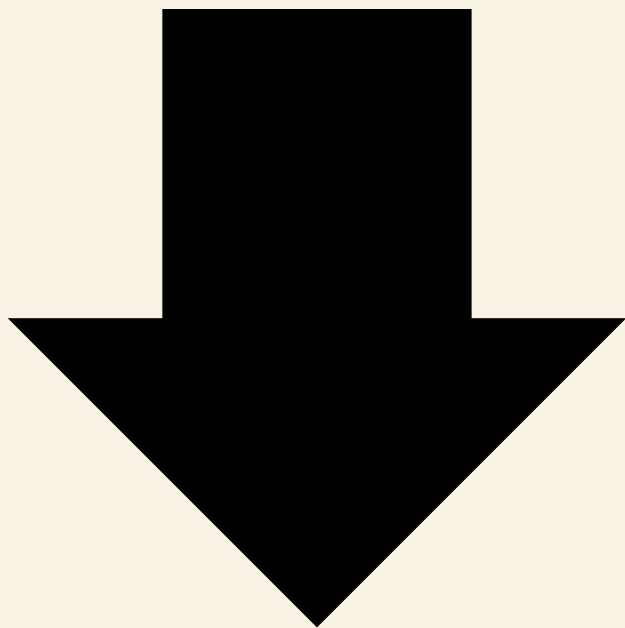
Three simple ways to join UNISON today and get essential cover wherever you work

Join online at
joinunison.org

Call us on
0800 171 2193

Ask your UNISON rep
for an application form

Scan QR code to join UNISON





Lothian Health Branch