

**Wednesday, 26 September 2018**

**Comment on the EIS-FELA Consultative Ballot Result**

Commenting on the Educational Institute of Scotland – Further Education Lecturers' Association's (EIS-FELA) announcement that their members have rejected the colleges' final three-year pay deal (2017/18, 2018/19, and 2019/20) in a consultative ballot, a spokesperson for the Colleges Scotland Employers' Association said:

“We are disappointed by this but not surprised given EIS-FELA's intransigent approach to pay discussions. They have continually refused to seriously engage in the process and have demanded a colossal pay increase on top of an extremely generous pay rise resulting from National Bargaining.

“A pay rise is a pay rise irrespective of how it is delivered, so it is deceptive of EIS-FELA to try and conveniently forget the huge pay increases and improvements in terms and conditions for lecturers from National Bargaining. The colleges' final pay offer would increase lecturers' average pay from £36,125 in April 2016 to £40,522 in April 2019 – an increase of 12.2%. EIS-FELA's additional pay demand would take average pay to an unsustainable £45,033 – a 24.7% rise – costing colleges an additional £60 million, which is unaffordable for the sector, as independently verified by the Scottish Funding Council.

“EIS-FELA's conduct is in stark contrast to the support staff trade unions – UNISON, UNITE, and, GMB – who have stood their ground for their members but seriously engaged and negotiated to get the best possible and affordable pay and conditions deal for their members.

“The combined pay offer on the table is the best one ever for lecturing staff in Scotland and if EIS-FELA continue with their grandstanding and mendacious claims to their members they would completely undermine the delivery of the college sector, jeopardise lecturing and support staff jobs, and reduce student courses, which colleges resolutely want to avoid.”

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact:**

Will McLeish, Head of Communications and Public Affairs:

Tel: 01786 892063

Mobile: 07712 404 397

Email: [will.mcleish@collegesscotland.ac.uk](mailto:will.mcleish@collegesscotland.ac.uk)

Joanne Buchan, Communications and Public Affairs Officer:

Tel: 01786 892012

Mobile: 07590 229 707

Email: [joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk)