

Wednesday, 16 January 2019

Comment on today's EIS-FELA Strike

Commenting on today's Educational Institute of Scotland Further Education Lecturers' Association (EIS-FELA) strike, John Gribben, Director of Employment Services at Colleges Scotland Employers' Association, said:

"We have met the EIS-FELA on eight occasions to discuss pay and will be meeting them again on January 24 when we will urge them to suspend their disruptive strike action.

"The EIS-FELA must realise that colleges are already having to make cuts to finance the additional pay offer which they have rejected and that their unreasonable pay demands would mean fewer courses, fewer students, and fewer lecturing jobs in the college sector.

"The pay harmonisation already agreed and colleges' additional pay offer for the 2017-20 three-year period are providing substantial increases to most lecturers with an average pay rise of well over £4,000 and delivering improved terms and conditions for all lecturers, including 62 days' holiday a year, a reduction in student contact to 23 hours a week, and excellent career average pensions.

"The minimum pay increase any lecturer in Scotland will receive is £2,600, while some are getting huge increases of almost £20,000. We urge the EIS-FELA to suspend their disruptive strike action which hits students the hardest and, for the first time in this process, seriously engage with colleges and recognise how incredibly generous this overall package is."

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

Joanne Buchan, Communications and Public Affairs Officer:

Tel: 01786 892012

Mobile: 07590 229 707

Email: joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk