

Wednesday 15 May 2019

Comment on EIS-FELA Strike Action

Commenting on the fall in the number of EIS-FELA members out on strike, Heather Stevenson, Interim Director of Employment Services at Colleges Scotland Employers' Association, said:

“The EIS-FELA will be disappointed that the strike numbers have substantially fallen since the first day of strike action despite paying their members to go out on strike on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The number of EIS-FELA members on strike has dropped by a fifth since January.

“We are disheartened that the EIS-FELA continue to target the students by striking during the exam period and withholding their assessment results from colleges. However, colleges have put contingency plans in place, and they are telling us that the strikes are not having an impact and business is continuing as normal.

“We have put forward an improved offer to the EIS-FELA which would see lecturers' salaries across Scotland increase on average by over £5,000 or more than 13%– over three years from the combination of pay rises from National Bargaining's salary harmonisation and the additional pay offer, putting unpromoted lecturers at the top of the pay scale on £41,426. By comparison, lecturers in England are on an average salary of approximately £31,000.

“In addition to considerable pay rises, lecturers have also benefitted from significant improvements in their terms and conditions, including 62 days' annual holiday, a reduction in weekly contact with students to 23 hours, and excellent pensions provision.

“The EIS-FELA has to recognise that the offer on the table is being funded entirely by colleges making cuts and it is ridiculous that they have been out on strike six times this year and haven't put any of the 10 offers that the colleges have made to their members to decide if they would accept.

“For the sake of students, we will continue meeting with the EIS-FELA to find a resolution to their latest industrial action, but it must be affordable and sustainable for the college sector”.

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