

Comment on the EIS-FELA Strike Action

A spokesperson for the Colleges Scotland Employers' Association said:

“Today’s action by the EIS-FELA is extremely disappointing after what has already been a very difficult and challenging year for staff and students across Scotland. The EIS-FELA is breaching national agreed protocols by taking unnecessary industrial action whilst meaningful discussions are still ongoing.

“The request to suspend the strike while talks continue was refused by the EIS-FELA on Tuesday.

“The strike action is taking place because the EIS-FELA has claimed colleges are trying to replace lecturer posts with less qualified and less well paid staff. This simply isn’t true.

“In our discussions, the EIS-FELA has agreed that there is no national plan to replace lecturers with other roles like tutors, assessors or instructors. We also both agree that all roles in colleges, whether they be lecturing or support staff, are valuable and that each role is distinct.

“There is one detail left on the table for discussion, and the employers want to make sure that the final agreement recognises the complex and professional nature of the job that lecturers do. Colleges also need to be confident that the solution doesn’t have a negative impact on support staff, because we have a duty of care to the whole workforce.

“This is extremely disappointing after what has already been a very difficult year for students.

“We hope that the ongoing discussions lead to a positive outcome.”

ENDS

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