

**Thursday 29 October 2015**

**Colleges Scotland's response to the EIS statement**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

“It should be recognised that National Bargaining has been absent in the college sector for over 20 years therefore there are a number of issues that require to be addressed to reintroduce this. Firstly mechanisms have had to be put in place to move from local to National Bargaining. Then there is the issue of delivering an across-the-board pay increase that is in line with public sector pay policy. There is also the need to address variances in pay around the country.

“At this early stage in reintroducing National Bargaining across the college sector, we can deliver a sustainable pay increase now, to everyone. With the best will in the world tackling the variances cannot be done in the same timeframe. Not least because the solution proposed by EIS would actually cost the sector over 13% more in wages on average. This is not realistic and definitely not sustainable.

“This is not a question of ‘either or’. There is nothing to stop the unions securing more money for their members straight away while working with us to modernise our workforce realistically in the longer term. We’ve put steps in place towards this in the current offer.”

**ENDS**

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