

Thursday 10 December 2015

Colleges Scotland's Response to the EIS Indicative Ballot

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

"The EIS is dragging its members through a strike when it could be securing realistic pay increases for them now. The pay claim used as the carrot for this vote is unprecedented and unrealistic – indeed, Larry Flanagan, General Secretary of EIS, has himself acknowledged that it would mean pay rises for some of up to 25%. No employer could support that.

"The current offer takes into account the need for sustainability in the sector and reflects colleges' desire to avoid making further job cuts which would ultimately impact on students. Unless some realism enters the thinking of the EIS, we genuinely fear that the real losers will be students and teaching staff, neither of whom benefit from strikes.

"For the avoidance of doubt, we accept there are inconsistencies in pay across the country that need to be addressed. These inconsistencies have developed over years of local negotiations by the same trade unions. The unions cannot distance themselves from those pay differentials. While pay differences across the country cannot be addressed overnight, we do want to achieve change. Furthermore, the inconsistencies in pay are paired with inconsistencies in conditions of service and any attempt to address these will need to take both into consideration. We have encouraged EIS to work with us to address the inconsistencies, and of course secure recurrent funding streams to allow this to happen.

"The college sector is fully committed to National Bargaining and we look forward to working with the trade unions and the Scottish Government to ensure its successful implementation".

ENDS

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