

Thursday 4 February 2016

Colleges Scotland's Statement on Lecturer's Pay Rise

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

"The recommendation to award the pay rise was not taken lightly and was taken with the best financial interests of the sector in mind. We want to ensure lecturing staff do not suffer detriment in comparison to other staff across the sector. The three support staff unions have accepted the same pay rise of 1%. Our preference would have been to reach a negotiated settlement with the EIS as we have with the support staff to ensure we bring the sector together with the same pay deal.

"The decision was further motivated by a real prospect that if money is not utilised by March 2016, there is a significant risk that this will be lost to the sector, due to the financial year end.

"I'd reiterate that the 1% pay rise is fair and reasonable, and in line with public sector pay policy and above inflation which stood at 0.2% in December 2015. The EIS demands effectively equate to an average pay increase of 13% across the sector, which is neither affordable nor achievable.

"The college sector remains totally committed to National Bargaining and to addressing harmonisation as part of subsequent negotiations."

ENDS

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