

Tuesday 20 September 2016

Colleges Scotland's Comment on the Industrial Action Announcement

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of the Colleges Scotland Employers' Association said:

"It is disappointing that a very small number of GMB members have voted to take industrial action at colleges across Scotland, as well as UNISON. Any strike will only cause further disruption and uncertainty for students. Less than 70 GMB members have voted to strike across the sector, in a support staff workforce of over 4,000.

"The pay rise that the trade unions have been offered is a good one, exceeding public sector pay policy and above inflation. There is absolutely no need for strike action.

"While we want to reward staff, colleges simply don't have the funds to keep on paying out more and more money.

"We would urge both trade unions to get back round the table and work with the Employers to resolve these issues."

ENDS

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Notes:

The offer is loaded towards staff on the lower end of the pay scale to address low pay which is what the unions wanted. For a support worker on a £22,000 salary, the combination of last year's settlement and the current offer equates to an increase of £800 over two years – a 3.6% pay rise.