



Johanna Baxter (Head of Local Government)  
Unison Scotland  
UNISON House  
14 West Campbell Street  
GLASGOW  
G2 6RX

By Email: [J.Baxter@unison.co.uk](mailto:J.Baxter@unison.co.uk)

13 March 2020

Dear Johanna,

I am keen to keep our signatory Trade Unions informed of work we are actively involved in to support the local government workforce at this most challenging of times with the Coronavirus Covid-19 outbreak.

As you are aware COSLA has with the SJC Trade Unions support and cooperation acted quickly issuing the 'SJC/60 Circular' dated 2 March. This Circular provides reassurance to the workforce that pay will be maintained in either self-isolation or actual sickness scenarios. We believe this action has been well received by the workforce.

Our overriding advice however is for everyone to follow current Health Protections Scotland Advice. I have pasted a link for this below.

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/>

You may also be aware that the ongoing response is being led nationally via the Scottish Govt Resilience Room (SGoRR) arrangements. I am the COSLA representative on this group and can reassure you that both messaging for the general public and various workforce sectors is a priority area for the group. Sally Loudon, COSLA Chief Executive, is also on this group and either of us can be contacted should you feel the need to raise any Covid-19 associated issue with us

I am keen to ensure that the voice of our Trade Union colleagues is heard and that you are actively consulted with locally by councils' Incident Management Teams (as it is in my council), or equivalent in other councils and that Branch Secretaries have a named council contact who can respond to issues and queries locally.

The Local Government family will need every resource, talent, experience and knowledge available to it to address the challenges the Covid-19 coronavirus will present to us. I see our Trade Union colleagues as very much part of this.

In addition to the above actions, I can advise you that COSLA staff have met the SPDS Executive to discuss Covid-19 and have reinforced the message that contact with Trade Union colleagues to keep colleagues informed is essential.

You will be aware that COSLA's Employers' Team is facilitating a weekly 'Workforce Advisory Group' by teleconference involving all Local Government Trade Unions, together with SOLACE and our professional HR association. The first meeting is next Tuesday morning and I understand you will participate which is very welcome.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Alison Evison  
COSLA President