



Scottish Borders Branch UNISON Statement on Single Status 23rd July 2008

UNISON notes that Scottish Borders Council has extended the voluntary sign up to offers of new contracts, by a further 2 weeks.

When this extended period comes to a close, Scottish Borders Council will need to move to their next stage.

Meanwhile UNISON are Balloting our Members on the Single Status Package. If we get a "Yes" vote, we step closer to a Collective Agreement. Both Unite and GMB/MPO will need to have a "Yes" vote also before we can move nearer to having a Collective Agreement with all the relevant Trade Unions involved.

If no Agreement can be reached with this collective method, and our Council still wish to implement the Single Status Package this year, they are likely to issue Staff with "90 Days notices of dismissal and offer of re-engagement" on the new Package. These contracts do not need to be signed immediately. The notice runs for 90 days and in that time Staff can consider their individual positions.

We advise our Members NOT to sign any new contracts until the result of our Ballot is announced along with the Ballots from Unite and GMB/MPO. At this point it will become clearer if we can sign a Collective Agreement or not.

UNISON would expect the Council to wait until the collective view of all Union Members are expressed before terminating Contracts. With Trade Union Ballots underway any dismissal in our view would be premature and unlawful.

Karen Horsley.

**Karen Horsley
Branch Secretary.**