



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Katy Clark MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for West Scotland Region

26th June 2024

Graeme Dey MSP
Minister for Higher Education and Further Education
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Our Reference: TUECJR

Trade Union Education Centre Closure

Dear Graeme,

I am writing with deep concern on behalf of a number of constituents who have gotten in touch to express their alarm at the proposal by senior management at City of Glasgow College to close the Trade Union Education Centre.

Whilst the centre is outside the region I represent, many of my constituents are employees at the college and many more have received training or education there. The resource has provided educational courses to union reps and shop stewards across different sectors for 32 years. In that time, thousands of workers have been trained to play a positive and constructive role representing their colleagues in the workplace. This is consistent with the Scottish Government's professed ethos and commitment to fair work.

As you will know, industrial relations at the college and across much of the sector are poor. The closure comes after a period of prolonged industrial action of pay and job losses. Constituents tell me of a hostile approach to trade unions being taken by senior management, using losses incurred during the pandemic and periods of strike action as cover to drive through the centre's closure. If it is closed, there will be next to no trade union education left in Scotland. Given this country's proud history in this area and the vital importance unions have played and continue to play, this would be shameful.

There is a serious strength of feeling across the trade union movement and, as evidenced by cross-party support for [this motion](#) from my colleague Pam Duncan-Glancy, across the Scottish Parliament about this announced closure. Disappointingly, there has been radio silence from the Scottish Government thus far.

I would strongly urge you to work with trade unions and college management to lift the threat to this vital educational resource. I look forward to your speedy reply.

Yours sincerely,

Katy Clark MSP
West Scotland Region