



*Douglas House, 60 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3UQ ~ Tel 0131 558 7488 Fax 0131 558 7041  
branchoffice@unison-edinburgh.org.uk*

8 July 2021

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

**Edinburgh - Save Our Care Homes Campaign**

We write to you with regards to our Save Our Care Homes campaign and ask that in your capacity as Cabinet Secretary for Health you urgently intervene to help save our city's care home services.

Under current Edinburgh IJB proposals, Clovenstone, Ferrylee, Ford's Road and Jewel House Care Homes have been judged to be unsuitable and would be closed. A further care home, Drumbrae would be removed from council control and no longer provide much needed resident-based care. This will leave Scotland's capital with only three local authority homes to deal with an ageing population.

UNISON believes that closing these four care homes and changing the role of another without proper and meaningful consultation with the trade unions, residents and their families is short-sighted. No explanation has been given as to why replacement premises are not to be built or bought and no strategy and fully costed plan on how a move to community-based care would be an adequate replacement for residential care has been evidenced. This sets a dangerous precedent not just for how we care for today's generation of elderly but for those who come in the future.

These proposals mean large-scale disruption for care residents and 270 care home posts deleted with a further 160 posts put at risk. It takes a special kind of person to work with the elderly so to lose that kind of experience and in those numbers would be devastating. Over the course of the Covid 19 pandemic, our members have put the health and wellbeing of residents before that of themselves and families. For that to go unnoticed and for them to be treated in this manner is a disgrace.

In February, UNISON welcomed recommendations from the Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland supporting a National Care Service. The challenge now sits with the Scottish Government to deliver on the recommendations. The report carefully reflected the workforce issues to be addressed if we are to have a high quality, rights-based service, with universally applied standards of Fair Work. How can this be done if Edinburgh care homes are to be closed without replacement and the loss of experienced staff with what remains being passed on to the private sector?

Scotland's care system already relies heavily on homes that are run for profit. Edinburgh can buck that trend by supporting Council-run care homes that focus on providing quality care not the making of money. UNISON asks you and the Scottish Government to start planning and financing the next generation of modern fit-for-purpose care homes in Edinburgh. Immediate intervention from the Scottish Government is needed to put a stop to the closure and loss of our care homes and staff.

As part of our campaign, we have launched a public facing petition and we are regularly meeting with our members. Our members are far more concerned about care home residents than their own employment status. But will you support the UNISON campaign to not only save care worker jobs, but save our care homes?



*[www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk)*

*Branch Secretary: Tom Connolly ~ Chair: Duncan Smith ~ President: Kirsten Hey*

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We would be happy to meet with you to discuss further.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Conolly', written in a cursive style.

**Tom Conolly**  
**Branch Secretary**