

**Branch Meeting**  
**Tuesday 31st August**  
**6.30 p.m.**

STUC  
333 Woodlands Road  
Glasgow  
G3 6NG



Gail Cartmail,  
amicus full-time officer  
with national responsibility  
for NHS members

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- **Expelled member awarded £5,700**
- **NEC women's seat vacancy**
- **Accountability Conference**
- **Discrimination**

## Agenda for Change Concerns Grow

Many amicus members and representatives are becoming increasingly concerned about the results of the Agenda for Change process in the Early Implementer (England) and Pilot sites (Scotland). One example of this is the recently published report from National Services Scotland (used to be called the CSA—Common Services Agency). The report admits to a relatively poor outcome, where many staff would have to rely on protection of earnings.

However, the poor outcome can perhaps be partly explained by the attitude betrayed in the report where when posts were evaluated to a pay band greater than the current financial equivalent under Whitley the response was to query the result as 'inappropriate' and state that such evaluations needed to be 'quality assured'. Perhaps a more reasonable response would have been to assume that the posts were currently under-graded or otherwise underpaid. Little wonder that concern grows.

## Health & Safety Executive To Get a Wider Role

The Government is going to expand the remit of the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Jane Kennedy, Minister of State for Work, whilst praising the record of the HSC and HSE said that she was unsure if they had 'sufficient focus' on promoting healthy environments at work.

Kennedy's comments followed a House of Commons select committee report which expressed concern over the HSE's capacity and

resources to show leadership on the issue. The cross-party committee recommended that the Government should increase the funding of HSE to fulfil its growing role.

In another strand of policy on health at work, the Government is reviewing whether GPs are the best choice to sign people off work and is considering whether other health professionals would be more appropriate. Pilot studies using Occupational Health specialists are underway around the country.

## Contacts

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Secretary	Maureen Jenkins	0141 201 3044
Treasurer	Richard Shaw	0141 201 0412
Vice-chair	Helen McFarlane	0141 211 0800
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
Safety Officer	Derek Anstee	0141 211 2128
Women's Officer	Helen McFarlane	0141 211 0800
Newsletter Editor	James Ito	0141 201 0798



## Expelled amicus member awarded £5,700

David Beaumont, an amicus member who was the author of a website [www.rogerlyons.com](http://www.rogerlyons.com) was expelled by the union 2 1/2 years ago. The website made numerous allegations of wrongdoing by senior union officials and the union took disciplinary action against Mr Beaumont and expelled him from membership. Mr Beaumont appealed against his expulsion and was subsequently reinstated. An Employment Tribunal decided that the union had acted unlawfully when it disciplined him and had then acted unreasonably by not assisting the Tribunal. Because of this, they awarded Mr Beaumont £1381.40 costs. Subsequently, Mr Beaumont was awarded £5,700 compensation for the union's illegal actions.

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## NEC women's rep vacancy

Due to the untimely death of Vi Huddart, there is a vacancy on the unions national executive committee (NEC). The timetable for the election of a replacement women's NEC member is:

- Nominations (from Branches or Groups): September
  - Voting papers issued: week commencing 15th November
  - Last date for receipt of ballot papers: Friday 3rd December.
- Further details may be obtained from the Branch Secretary.
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## Conference on safety and corporate accountability

If you are interested in attending a one-day conference on Safety and Corporate Criminal Accountability contact the Branch Secretary. The conference is to be held in Glasgow on Thursday 14th October and speakers include Cathy Jamieson (Justice Minister), Bill Speirs (General Secretary of the STUC) and Frank Maguire of Thompsons Solicitors who specialise in health and safety and personal injury law.

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## Women believe discrimination thriving at work

A recent survey of 879 female employees has revealed that 95% of them are frustrated with the lack of opportunities for promotion. Almost as many (94%) felt that promotional procedures should be changed to allow for more women to be given the more senior positions in the workplace. Peter Done, managing director of the firm which carried out the survey, said 'Sex discrimination is still very much part of our society...and women are finding it increasingly frustrating to reach higher positions in their workplace. Many feel....the best positions are reserved for men'

## Branch Meeting Tuesday 31st August

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Correspondence.
4. Reports.
5. Motions.
6. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Wednesday 29th September at 6.30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG. (Tea, coffee & biscuits 6.15 p.m.)

