

**Branch Meeting**

**Wednesday  
23rd  
February  
6.30 p.m.**

STUC  
333 Woodlands Road  
Glasgow  
G3 6NG



Branch Chair Donald Sime presiding over the recent meeting of laboratory reps in the union's Glasgow office

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**Agenda for Change:  
What Next?**

By now you may be fed up with hearing about Agenda for Change (AfC)—after all it's more than four years since the negotiations started. However, of the three strands of AfC (terms & conditions, grading and knowledge & skills), the one with the biggest immediate and long term personal impact is likely to be grading. The process is that your agreed job description is compared to a set of national profiles and if it matches you are assigned to the pay band for that profile. If there is no match, then your post is subjected to

job analysis.

The most important part of this procedure is your job description. It must accurately reflect all of the tasks, skills, qualifications, responsibilities etc which are required to carry out your job. This does not mean that a generic job description cannot be used, but—and it is a big but—it must reflect accurately and completely your post and it must be agreed jointly by you and your line manager. If it doesn't match—don't sign—see your local amicus rep.

**NHS Pensions Review:  
What You Can Do**

There are two main ways in which you can make your voice heard. The first is to contact your Member of Parliament—amicus has produced postcards addressed to the House of Commons. Fill in your details and send them off. If you do not know the name of your MP or constituency these can be obtained from the internet ([www.locata.co.uk/commons/](http://www.locata.co.uk/commons/)) or local libraries. An even more effective contribution can be made by meeting your MP in his/her local constituency office—amicus has produced advice on what

to say and do.

As an NHS employee in Scotland, you should have received a “consultation leaflet” with details of how to respond. For those with internet access, a useful comparison of the current and proposed pension schemes can be downloaded from the English NHS employers' website: [www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndConditions/at\\_a\\_glance.asp](http://www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndConditions/at_a_glance.asp). Although there is a separate Scottish review, the pension schemes will be kept consistent within the UK.

**Contacts**



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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
Education Officer	Ian Forbes	0141 211 4523
Newsletter Editor	James Ito	0141 201 0798

## Rich get richer

According to the Inland Revenue, the rich are getting richer. The top 1% of the adult population now own 23% of the UK's privately owned wealth (source: Inland Revenue statistics for 2002). In 1979 when the Thatcher government was elected, the figure stood at 20% and had fallen to 18% by the time of John Major's election victory in 1992. During Major's tenure in power, the rich's share grew from that 18% to 22%. Since Tony Blair and Labour were elected in 1997, the top 1% have seen their share of privately owned wealth grow to 23%. At the other end of the scale, the bottom 50% of the population own just 6%.

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## email list

Due to a computer problem, the email list for the Branch Newsletter was lost. Some of the list has been reconstructed, but it is incomplete. If you were on the email list but did not receive this Newsletter, then please send a blank email with the subject "Subscribe Newsletter" to [james.ito@bigfoot.com](mailto:james.ito@bigfoot.com). Obviously, Branch members who were not on the email list are also welcome to subscribe—it's free and you get the electronic version of the Newsletter about a week before the printed copy is distributed.

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## MSPs warn on Scottish NHS funding

A report from the Scottish Parliament's Health Committee has said that NHS Boards in Scotland should not have to bear the financial burden imposed by new pay deals such as that for the consultant's contract or Agenda for Change. In addition to expressing concern about funding of pay increases, the report cast doubt on the effectiveness of workforce planning in the Scottish NHS suggesting that there would not be enough staff to meet future needs. The MSPs also cast doubt on the current trend to have more specialised services in fewer centres. The report can be downloaded from the Scottish Parliament website at [www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/health/index.htm](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/health/index.htm)

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## Education officer elected

As reported in last month's Newsletter, the Branch has decided to devote a not inconsiderable part of its budget to the education and training of Branch members and representatives. At the January branch meeting, Ian Forbes was elected as the Branch's Education and Development Officer. Ian is a former Branch Chair and is a leading amicus representative in the North Division of NHS Greater Glasgow. He can be contacted at the Cytology Department, Glasgow Royal Infirmary (Tel: 0141 211 4523)

## Branch Meeting Wednesday 23rd February

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 Thursday 31st March 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.)

