

WELCOME TO UNITE THE UNION NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE BRANCH SC/164/NHS

Dear Unite new member

Welcome to Unite the Union NHS GGC Health Branch.

Unite is the largest Trade Union in the UK, with a proven track record of representing and protecting members in the workplace, and protecting and whenever possible improving your terms and conditions, at local and national level.

The GGC Health Branch has a well-established team of trained workplace representatives, senior representatives, and also representatives in Health and Safety, Learning, Equalities and Environment who are available to support you, wherever your base is, and whatever department you work in.

You may already know who your local workplace representative is, and if so you can approach them directly for assistance. If you do not have a workplace representative in your work area, or if you are a home or hybrid worker, or you do not know who to approach for help and advice, please contact the Glasgow Office on 0141 404 5424, with your membership number and an outline of your issue. Someone will then contact you as soon as possible.

A few helpful pointers

* New members are entitled to advice from the date of joining and active representation after 3 months membership, at which point the right to legal representation, if required, also becomes active.
* It can sometimes take a day or two to allocate a representative. All our representatives are volunteers, and have day jobs within GGC HB and so are not always immediately available, nor can they provide a 24/7, 365 days a year service; however our reps are as accommodating as they can be, and your allocated rep will contact you as soon as possible.
* If your issue is urgent, please state this, with some background detail, when you call the office.
* When you are contacted by a rep they will want a summary of the problem, and will ask you what actions you have taken so far to resolve the issues, and what response you have had.
* Not all meetings with your manager will require support from a rep (eg routine return to work meetings). However if you do require support at a meeting we are very happy to arrange that, but this cannot be guaranteed at short notice as our representatives are often busy with other cases and partnership meetings, as well as their day jobs. Ideally you should give 7 days notice; however we are aware that sometimes members are asked by their managers to attend at very short notice. It is important to note that management are obliged to accommodate a postponement if you feel you need representation and no rep is available. The convenor or the allocated representative will contact you if there is an issue with a proposed date so that you can arrange a rescheduled date with your manager.
* Please be aware that there are learning opportunities for our members. The convenor can direct you to a Learning representative who can discuss with you what is available.
* Health and safety reps are there to assist with any concerns relating to H+S at work. Unite has a health and safety committee and a Chair of H+S. Again the convenor or the Unite office can direct/advise you if you have a H+S concern.
* Equality is an important issue for Unite. Our Equalities representatives can advise and support any member who has a workplace concern around any protected characteristic or equality issue. Please contact the convenor for further information.
* The environmental representative is a relatively new role which Unite is keen to develop. Our environmental representatives are available to discuss any environmental concerns in the workplace and to negotiate with GGC over their carbon footprint and other environmental concerns.
* The Unite GGC Branch meets monthly on the last Thursday of the month at 1.30pm, and all members are welcome. This meeting can be attended in person, or remotely via Zoom. All members are welcome. Details of these meeting are available to all members in advance on the Branch website: <https://unitenhsggc.unitetheunion.org/>

Details of Unite GGC senior representatives, including contact details for the branch chair, secretary, convenor and other branch officers are available on our website.

<https://unitenhsggc.unitetheunion.org/>

Once again, welcome to Unite the Union NHS GGC Branch.