

**From:** [Internal Communications](#)  
**To:** [Internal Communications](#)  
**Subject:** Teacher strikes — A message for all colleagues from Jean Blair  
**Date:** 21 February 2023 13:08:34  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Colleagues,

I wanted to give an update on the current teachers' pay dispute and what we are doing to plan for any potential impact on this year's exam diet.

I'm sure you will be aware that EIS - Scotland's largest teaching union - last week rejected the latest pay offer.

Teachers across the country are planning to strike on 28 February and 1 March, while EIS has organised strikes in a small number of areas on 22-24 February and 7-9 March. Rolling strikes across Scotland's local authority areas are also planned between 13 March and 21 April.

While this is a dispute between teaching unions, the Scottish Government and COSLA, it has implications for us and for learners.

Every year SQA has contingencies in place for potential disruption to the diet, however the current situation clearly merits additional work.

Scottish Government is leading on the contingency planning around the impacts of industrial action. However, I want to reassure you that we have been involved for some time and continue to be in regular contact with government and local authorities as we consider any potential options around exams and assessments that may need to be considered while this action continues.

The matter was discussed at SQA's Board of Management last week. We have convened a working group to look at the impact on our operational processes.

We will keep all colleagues updated on the situation as a priority.

**Jean Blair**  
Director of Operations