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**Subject:** Letter to Secretaries of State for Education and Health

From: Hilton Dawson [mailto:hilton.dawson@basw.co.uk]  
Sent: 03 December 2010 16:39  
To: 'fullerfran@basw.co.uk'  
Cc: 'fullerfran@basw.co.uk'  
Subject: Letter to Secretaries of State for Education and Health

Dear

Please find an attached letter which has gone to Andrew Lansley and Michael Gove this afternoon in response to your press release this morning.

I'd be most grateful if you would forward a copy of this letter to the members of your Interim Board.

I'd also be grateful for the opportunity to attend your December Board meeting to discuss this matter.

Yours,

Hilton

Hilton Dawson

Chief Executive  
British Association of Social Workers  
16 Kent Street  
Birmingham B5 6RD

[www.basw.co.uk](http://www.basw.co.uk) <<http://www.basw.co.uk/>>

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Ref: HD/slk/W5238

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT

Andrew Lansley CBE MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London SW1A 2NS

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010

Dear Michael and Andrew

Re: **The College of Social Work and Unison**

Please excuse me writing to both of you about this issue and for taking it to the level of Secretary of State. However, this is a matter which concerns both your departments and I think the concern of BASW Council merits your attention.

I attach a press release issued today by the College announcing that it has reached an agreement in principle with Unison under which the trade union will provide employee representation services to College members and the College will provide professional advice services to social workers who are Unison members.

As you will see from the 'Notes to Editors' this will enable social workers in membership of Unison to become members of the College for a fee of approximately £50.

According to the list of 'Membership Services of the College' Unison members will thus have access to a range of benefits not currently provided by their trade union including :

- A magazine
- A peer reviewed journal
- Professional indemnity and public liability insurance
- Access to communities of interest

All of these benefits are currently available to BASW members on payment of an individual membership fee considerably in excess of £50.

Cont/...

In effect the public funding of the College will enable Unison to compete more effectively with BASW. It means that your Government is subsidising a trade union to undermine the membership base and financial viability of an independent professional association.

I trust that you will share my concern about what seems a misuse of public funds and that you will be prepared to look into this matter.

My concern has been heightened further by the information provided today by one of the Chairs of the Interim Board that this critical agreement was ratified not at a meeting of the Board but by a ring round of members undertaken by the other Chair.

Despite the College claiming that the Interim Board wish to pursue convergence with BASW and having met with them as recently as November 19<sup>th</sup> this press release was the first that we knew of this arrangement with Unison.

I can assure you that BASW Council operate to rather higher standards of governance and probity and that we would never conduct our business in such a way.

I would be grateful for your attention to this issue and hope for your support.

Yours sincerely



**Hilton Dawson**  
Chief Executive  
0121-622 8416  
[h.dawson@basw.co.uk](mailto:h.dawson@basw.co.uk)

enc.

cc College of Social Work

Tim Loughton MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children & Families

Paul Burstow MP  
Minister of State for Care Services

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**From:** Fran Fuller; CollegeChair  
**Sent:** 07 December 2010 09:52  
**To:** 'h.dawson'  
**Cc:** Fran Fuller;  
**Subject:** RE: Convergence discussions

Dear Hilton

Thank you for this email.

We do not feel it is appropriate for you to meet with the full Interim Board on Monday. We have a very full agenda and much to get through. As I let you know, one item on the agenda is to identify our negotiating team for working towards convergence with BASW, which we remain committed to. We will get back to you to arrange a meeting of our respective negotiating teams once we have agreed which of our Interim Board members will be on our negotiating team.  
Best wishes

Maurice and Corinne.

*on behalf of The College Of Social Work*

## THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

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**From:** Hilton Dawson  
**Sent:** 06 December 2010 16:30  
**To:**  
**Cc:** Fran Fuller; CollegeChair;  
**Subject:** Re: Convergence discussions

Thanks for your email.

Friday's press release has raised issues for us which we would prefer to discuss directly with the Interim Board.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you next Monday December 13th

Yours

Hilton

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

**From:** [fran.fuller@collegechair.gov.uk](mailto:fran.fuller@collegechair.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** Mon, 6 Dec 2010 12:21:05 +0000  
**To:** 'Hilton Dawson' <[hilton.dawson@collegechair.gov.uk](mailto:hilton.dawson@collegechair.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** 'Fran Fuller' <[fran.fuller@collegechair.gov.uk](mailto:fran.fuller@collegechair.gov.uk)>; CollegeChair <[collegechair@collegechair.gov.uk](mailto:collegechair@collegechair.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Convergence discussions

Dear Hilton

Further to your email of 3 December, Maurice and Corinne have asked me to let you know that the next Interim Board meeting will be discussing BASW's position, and will identify its negotiation team for convergence discussions. We will then be in touch to arrange a separate meeting for the BASW and College negotiating teams to discuss convergence.

Best wishes

*on behalf of The College Of Social Work*

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