

### YOUR CONTACTS WITHIN UNITE THE UNION

#### Grass Cutting in Scottish Borders Council

To blame staff training for the state of the grass in our public areas and cemeteries as reported in the Border Telegraph Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 is a shameful statement to make to admit publicly that you have failed in your duty under section 9 part 1 of the PUWER regulation 1998 which states that staff must be adequately trained in the use of machinery is a serious admission to make.

It has to be said that our members in neighbourhood services do their best in what can only be described as an unsatisfactory situation with regards to grass cutting.

It doesn't take Einstein to work out that if you cut the grass every 20 days opposed to the 10 day cut it received in the past that the grass will be longer and therefore will look unkempt regardless of what kind of machinery is used.

I am sure MSP Christine Graham will not be impressed with the statement that has been made as will many of the readers of the Border Telegraph.

This attempt to deflect criticism from the council's decision to reduce the number of times the grass is cut to make budget savings on to our members in environmental services is unacceptable.

As a result of the changes many of our members have been accosted by unhappy members of the public demonstrating their views and at times to the point of abusing them which unacceptable.

If members of the public are unhappy with the service they receive they should take it up with their councillor as front line staff are entitled to do their job without being abused.

Unite does not accept the excuse made for the state of our parks and open spaces and will raise the matter with the Service Director.

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