

Dear Jo and Jon,  
(cc Janet and Cardiff UCU office, senior officers, and strike committee leads)

I am writing as Chair of Cardiff UCU in the name of our strike committee to require information urgently on plans as they currently stand for industrial action in January and February.

The latest information we have is that announced after the HEC in November, namely that following strike days in November we would undertake a marking and assessment boycott in January followed by further strike action in February once teaching resumes. That is the plan we are working to currently.

However, we received communications from our sister union Unison ([here](#)) stating that UCU has “agreed to take steps to avoid escalating the dispute during” the period 30 November until 31 January 2023. This indicates that perhaps UCU HQ’s plan has changed since UCEA agreed to enter into negotiations. We are concerned that this would constitute a deviation from the democratic decision taken by the HEC in November.

We are also very concerned that should no further action be announced until after UCEA negotiations end on 31 January that will leave the union unable to carry out the HEC’s agreed plan, yet without any clear and explicit communication to members of this intention. We note that several members of the HEC have criticised this.

Furthermore, for any action that takes place in January or February we need to begin preparing for it now rather than hurriedly organise at the last minute. The latter was the position that many branches found themselves in during last summer’s proposed marking and assessment boycott. We note that almost every other large union announces a calendar of strike dates and other action well in advance. UCU seem to be only union who take the position that they can’t announce action with more than 2 weeks notice (see <https://twitter.com/BrackleyJ/status/1600418683448266752>).

We are disappointed at the idea that we might not be informed about national strategy that relies on our members active participation until it is too late to carry out action to its full potential.

We would be very grateful if you can publicise information to all branches and members about plans as they stand and if there has been a change from HEC’s agreed strategy we would appreciate a clear explanation of the reasons for this.

Best regards,

Renata  
Cardiff UCU Chair  
(on behalf of Cardiff UCU Strike Committee)