‘Bring Back The Moray Street Campus Refectory’ Policy

The Highlands & Islands Students’ Association shall…

- Campaign for the reopening of the rectory at the Moray Street Campus.

Start Date: 03/11/2026 **End Date:** 02/11/2028

Motion Title: Bring Back The Moray Street Campus Refectory

Proposer: Callum Stepien

The Situation

UHI Moray currently has no regular hot food provision at its Moray Street campus following the end of The Little Lunchbox's contract to operate the refectory.

Following the closure of the refectory, UHI Moray installed an additional vending machine offering only sandwiches, Pringles and Pot Noodles as an alternative to the previous catering provision. However, this vending machine does not provide an adequate substitute for a regular catering service offering a wider choice of nutritious meals, including freshly prepared hot food.

Alternative catering options within a 20-minute walk of the campus are expensive and/or offer limited nutritious choices.

The Beechtree Restaurant, UHI Moray's on-campus training restaurant, provides a limited catering service on selected days and during specific periods of the year. Consequently, it cannot meet the ongoing need for consistent catering provision at the Moray Street campus.

The Solution

- A refectory at UHI Moray's Moray Street campus that provides cheap and affordable hot meals, salads, sandwiches, and snacks, Monday to Friday, during term-time between 8.30am and 3pm.

The Importance

Moray Street campus students deserve a student experience equivalent to that enjoyed by students studying at other comparable campuses across the UHI Partnership.

The Moray Street campus is the third-largest campus in the UHI Partnership by student numbers. Both the largest campus (Perth) and the second-largest campus (Inverness) have multiple outlets serving freshly prepared hot food throughout the day. The fourth-largest campus (Kirkwall) also has an outlet serving freshly prepared hot food for both breakfast and lunch.

Not all students at Moray Street have the time or ability to leave campus to purchase lunch. For those who can, the cost of eating out on the high street every day they attend campus is simply unaffordable.

The lack of affordable hot meals, salads and sandwiches at the Moray Street campus is one of the most frequently raised complaints among UHI Moray students.

Research suggests that food plays an important role in learning for both Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) students. Eating regular, balanced meals can support concentrate on and memory, helping students engage more effectively with their learning.

The Action

- To campaign for the reopening of the rectory at the Moray Street Campus.