

No: 315/24

19th September 2024

TO: ALL BRANCHES

Dear Colleague

CWU MOTIONS TO THIS YEAR'S LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE – WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE

The purpose of this LTB is to provide Branches with advanced copies of the motions we have submitted to the forthcoming Labour Party Conference and to explain these in the context of the imminent Political Fund ballot.

Winter Fuel Allowance – Retired Members' Letter

As part of this, you will also find attached a copy of a letter that has gone to all retired members setting out the position the Union is taking in opposing the Government's decision to means test the Winter Fuel Allowance. Please ensure this letter is also circulated to representatives and our members in the workplace.

Motion on the Economy and Winter Fuel Allowance

The first motion deals with the Labour Government's current approach to the financial challenges facing the country and what they should be doing to ensure working class people and pensioners do not pay the price for the major problems created by the previous Government. This motion also calls for a reversal of means testing for the Winter Fuel Allowance.

On this particular motion, given the wider interest from other trade unions and local constituency party members, this will ultimately form part of a bigger composite motion. However, we are confident the final composite will include all the key points we are making.

The Future of Royal Mail


The second motion calls for the Government to urgently intervene in the Royal Mail takeover bid, the USO and the need to facilitate a new ownership/business model to secure the future of the company. A separate LTB and workplace communication will also be distributed to bring the attention of the terms of this motion to our postal members.

Political Fund Ballot

The issues outlined in this LTB and attached documentation further demonstrates why we must urge our members to **Vote Yes** in the forthcoming Political Fund ballot.

We simply cannot allow our employers and big business to be the only political voice on the fundamental issues that affect our members both in and outside of work.

Yours sincerely



Dave Ward
General Secretary

We are writing to update you on the action CWU has taken in support of our retired members, as a result of the Labour Government's decision to introduce means-testing for the Winter Fuel Allowance for pensioners.

Firstly, we wrote to the Chancellor expressing our concerns and dismay at this decision, calling for it to be reversed and asking the Government to send a representative to our Retired Members' Conference in October.

Secondly, we have submitted a motion to the Labour Party Conference, which takes place between the 22nd and 25th of September. This motion calls for the reversal of the means-testing policy for the Winter Fuel Allowance. We will update members on the progress of our motion while at the Labour Party Conference.

Although we recognise that the Government faces difficult economic challenges, the CWU is clear that the Government has got this badly wrong and there are alternative choices they could have made to fill the financial blackhole they inherited. Our union and the wider trade union movement are now campaigning on this issue and we will be working with others to do everything possible to change the current position.

As part of this ongoing campaign, it is important for our retired members to recognise that the CWU Political Fund is not just used to support the Labour Party. It is the only vehicle trade unions have to campaign politically on behalf of our members against all forms of injustice. We would not be able to even attend the Labour Party Conference and campaign against this decision without a political fund.

You may be aware that all unions are required, under the Tories' anti-trade union laws, to ballot our members every ten years to retain our political fund. This ballot will open imminently, and you will receive a ballot paper in the next few days. The only way we can continue to properly campaign on behalf of our retired members is for you to vote **'YES'** in the ballot.

The retention of our Political Fund is also crucial in supporting all working people. While we disagree with the Government on the Winter Fuel allowance, the implementation of the New Deal for Working People (a campaign founded by the CWU) will benefit millions of people in work. In addition, the decisions the Government will take on the proposed takeover of Royal Mail and reform of the Universal Service, will be crucial in shaping the future of Royal Mail and our members' jobs.

You will see from the above that retired members voting **'YES'** in the Political Fund Ballot is fundamental to helping us protect our members' jobs and the services that Royal Mail offer to the country.

Please join with us in our campaign to reverse the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Allowance and continue to support our members at work.

Vote 'YES'.

Yours Sincerely,



Dave Ward
General Secretary



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An Economy for the Future

Conference notes the Prime Minister's speech delivered in Downing Street on the 27th of August 2024, where he stated that the upcoming budget was "going to be painful".

Fourteen years of Tory austerity has devastated Britain. Our schools, our NHS, our prisons- every single public service has been slashed by the Conservatives project of public destruction. Alongside this, profiteering has flourished, short-term profits are favoured over long-term investment and working people have paid the price through real-terms wage cuts.

For so long, workers have been told that if they work hard, they can have a decent life and access well-functioning public services- with the guarantee that their children will be better off. Austerity has destroyed this promise.

Conference recognises that a new economic settlement is needed to rebuild our country in the interest of working people. A Labour government cannot be held back by an economic dogma that restricts real investment and asks working people and pensioners to bear the brunt of cuts while wealth accumulates at the top of society.

Conference agrees that the Labour Government should:

- Reform the fiscal rules to unlock revenue for significant investment in public services and infrastructure.
- Reverse the introduction of means-testing for the Winter Fuel Allowance
- Commit to, at a minimum, ensuring any public expenditure gaps are restored through taxing wealth and that there are no further cuts to welfare provision for working people and pensioners.

Communication Workers Union

Critical UK Infrastructure- The Future of Royal Mail

Conference welcomes the Labour Government's decision on the 1st August 2024 to examine the proposed takeover of Royal Mail by Czech billionaire, Daniel Kretinsky, under the National Security and Investment Act.

Conference recognises privatisation has failed customers and workers and that the company's recent leadership has grossly mismanaged Royal Mail's finances, while continuing to prioritise shareholder interests over its own employees.

Conference recognises the company has manufactured a crisis in service quality, staffing and morale to facilitate USO reform, in conjunction with Ofcom. Their current Universal Service Obligation (USO) reform plan solely focuses on cost-cutting and extreme price increases, rather than utilising its trusted workforce and unrivalled national infrastructure to develop new growth opportunities and to maximise social value in supporting our NHS and communities.

Conference agrees the Government must now urgently intervene and act to secure the future of Royal Mail, protecting the interests of customers, workers and the country, as follows:

- As part of the assessment of the proposed takeover, ensure stronger contractual obligations are provided, including on the future of the USO, the need to protect jobs and on preventing asset stripping or the splitting of the company.
- Ensure that any final decision on USO reform is taken by the government, rather than Ofcom and Royal Mail's failed leadership team.
- Facilitate a new business governance and ownership model that truly aligns the interest of employees, customers and the company.

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