

No. 328/24

8th October 2024

TO: ALL BRANCH SECRETARIES

Dear Colleagues,

Agenda Pad – CWU Retired Members Conference – 30th October 2024

Branches would wish to know that the agenda for the CWU Retired Members Conference which is being held at the CWU Birmingham Branch Offices on Wednesday 30th October has now been published on the website and can be accessed by opening the attachment or pasting the link into your browser:

<https://www.cwu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/RETIRED-AGENDA-OCTOBER-2024.pdf>

Branches are also reminded that Branch Secretaries should register delegates and observers by emailing conferences@cwu.org by no later than 25th October 2024. Confirmation of requests will be sent to branches within 72 hours. Should confirmation not be received within this time branches are asked to contact Angela Niven on 020 8971 7237.

Attached is also a nomination form relating to the ballot that takes place at the conference to determine the two delegates to represent the Retired Members to attend General Conference 2025.

All individuals must be willing to accept nomination, and must have the nomination of their own branch and/or the Retired Members' Committee, to be eligible. The exception to this are members of the Retired Members' Committee themselves who may be proposed for these positions but need to have the nomination of the Retired Members' Committee and/or any Regional Committee.

Any enquiries regarding this LTB should be addressed to Angela Niven by telephoning 020 8971 7256 or by post to head office or by email to conferences@cwu.org

Yours sincerely,

A P Kearns
Senior Deputy General Secretary



Nomination Form



AGENDA

**RETIRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2024**

**Birmingham Branch Office
CWU 47 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3TH**

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Welcome From the General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Welcome to the CWU Retired Members Conference of 2024 on behalf of the General Conference Standing Orders Committee.

This year we have again used the same criteria for motions that will be used for General Conference 2025 and, as such, the Standing Orders are as close as possible to those which will be in place for that Conference.

We have, recognised an issue with Emergency motions being submitted at times where we have no facilities to deal with such motions. To rectify this issue the submission of Emergency motions will close at Noon on Wednesday 23th October as reflected in the standing orders.

The Standing Orders Committee will be in attendance during the Conference should any Delegate have any question over procedure, and to conduct the Ballot(s) for motions to go forward to General Conference as well as the delegates to represent the Retired Members at General Conference 2025. Further information will be given at the start of the conference as well as prior to the commencement of the ballots.

May you all enjoy a successful Conference.

Joyce Stevenson and Tony Sneddon
General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Retired Members' Conference 2024 Standing Orders

1. The sessions of the Retired Members Conference shall commence in accordance with the timetable

2. TIMETABLE

- a 10.00 Registration
10.30 Chairperson's Opening Remarks
10.35 General Secretary's Address
10.55 Adoption of Retired Members Conference Standing Orders Committee Report (including appeals/reference backs)
11.05 Section II – Motions 1-11
12.20 Ballot to represent Retired Members at General Conference 2025
12.30 Lunch
13.30 Guest Speaker
13.50 Section II - Motions 1-11 Continued
14.55 Ballot
15.05 Senior Deputy General Secretary
15.25 Chairperson's Closing Remarks
15.30 Close of Conference
- b The doors of Conference will open at 10.00 with conference commencing at 10.30 and closing at 15.30

Conference is divided into two half-day sessions. If the business of any section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall proceed immediately to the next section of business.

If all the business of the final section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall return to the earliest uncompleted business.

3. PROCEDURE IN DEBATE

- a Every member of the Conference must remain in their seat, except the one who may be addressing the Conference and, should the Chairperson rise, no-one else shall continue standing nor shall anyone else rise until the Chairperson has resumed the Chair.

SPEAKERS

- b A delegate when speaking from the rostrum shall address the Chairperson. If two or more persons desire to speak at the same time the Chairperson shall decide to whom priority will be given. No person shall be allowed to speak twice on the same question.
- c All speeches shall be confined to the subject under discussion.
- d Delegates may only refer to documents which have a bearing on the subject under discussion.
- e
 - (i) Motions standing in the name of a Branch must be moved by a delegate from that Branch.
 - (ii) Motions standing in the name of a Regional Committee must be moved by a delegate from that body.
 - (ii) Motions must be seconded or else they shall be deemed to have fallen.
- f A motion may be seconded formally or by a speaker making a seconding speech.

COMPOSITE MOTIONS

- g All sponsors of a composite motion will be responsible for agreeing the allocation of moving and seconding speakers from amongst those named within the composite motion, notwithstanding the terms of Standing Order 3e(i) and (ii).
- h The mover of a motion shall be allowed to speak for not more than 3 minutes and any other speaker (including the mover exercising the right of reply) for not more than 3 minutes. **In EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES a speaker may request the special permission of Conference to speak for a longer period, if agreed, it shall not exceed a further 2 minutes.**
- i The moving speaker shall have the right of reply to the debate only if there has been opposition and shall not introduce any fresh matter but shall be limited to answering the debate.
- j The National Retired Members Committee (NRMC) shall be allowed one speaker in debate on all motions except those standing in their name. With the exception of Branches and Regional Committees moving and seconding a motion (under SO3e), Branches and Regional Committees, are entitled to one speaker only in each debate.
- k No motion shall be spoken upon except by the mover, until it has been seconded. The mover of a motion who opts not to make a moving speech shall lose the right of addressing Conference but shall still have the right of reply (SO3i) applies. The seconder of a motion who opts not to make a seconding speech shall not lose the right of addressing Conference.

ENDING DEBATE

- l Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That the motion be now put" (following the process as detailed in SO3p) on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this motion to the vote. In the event of it being carried by a simple majority of Conference (subject to SO4), Conference shall proceed to vote on the question itself, (subject to SO3j) and the right of reply as stated in SO3i being exercised.
- m Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That Conference proceeds to next business" (following the process as detailed in SO3p) on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this proposal to the vote (subject to SO4b). In the event of it being carried Conference shall at once proceed to the next item on its agenda.

WITHDRAWAL

- n Any motion or composite motion may be withdrawn from the Agenda at any time by the sponsor(s) who shall notify the Standing Orders Committee at the earliest opportunity. Once it has been moved and seconded, however, it shall not be withdrawn except with the agreement of Conference by a simple majority vote.

POINT OF ORDER

- o Any person wishing to question the proceedings of Conference may rise on a "point of order", and when called shall state the procedural point in exact terms, whereupon the Chairperson shall immediately give a ruling or refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee for a decision. Any person raising points of order must seek to prove one or more of the following:-
 - (i) That the speaker is using unparliamentarily language.
 - (ii) That the speaker is digressing from the subject of the motion.
 - (iii) That the rules of the Union are being broken.
 - (iv) That there is an infringement of the customary rules of debate.
 - (v) That there is an infringement of the Standing Orders (which shall be

referred to the Standing Orders Committee).

- p The Chairperson's ruling on a point of order shall be final unless it is challenged. The correct method of challenging the ruling shall be to move: "I wish to challenge your ruling." Such a motion shall be carried by a simple majority.
- q The Standing Orders Committee shall have the right to enter debate on all matters affecting the decisions and role of the Committee.

4. VOTING PROCEDURE

- a Voting at the Retired Members Conference shall normally be by a show of hand voting cards which shall be issued on the basis of one per Branch in attendance.
- b A formal vote may be called for either by the Chairperson of the Retired Members Conference or when 5 or more delegates call for such a vote immediately on the announcement of the decision of the hand vote.

DURING A FORMAL VOTE ALL PERSONS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR SEATS AND NO PERSON SHALL ENTER OR LEAVE THE FLOOR OF CONFERENCE.

Instructions on the formal vote will be given by the SOC.

- c A motion will be deemed carried if it obtains a simple majority of the votes cast.

5. PROCEDURE FOR EMERGENCY MOTIONS

- a Emergency motions may only be submitted for inclusion in the Agenda if they refer to a matter which because of the circumstances giving to them could not possibly have been submitted by the published closing date for motions. Such emergency motions will only be accepted by the SOC if they constitute a significant and important matter, which requires a decision by Conference.
- b Emergency motions must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by **noon on Wednesday 23rd 2024**. Branches and Regional Committees will be advised by the SOC whether or not the emergency motion has been accepted for inclusion to the Agenda prior to the commencement of Conference. **No Emergency Motions will be accepted after that date.**
- c A decision taken by Conference shall not be open to the emergency procedure at the same Conference.

6. APPEALS/REFERENCE BACK PROCEDURE

- a Written notice of appeals/intention to move reference back against decisions of the Standing Orders Committee as published in the Agenda regarding:-
 - (i) motions not admitted to the agenda
 - (ii) inclusion/exclusion of motions in a composite
 - (iii) the priority/placement given to a motion
 - (iv) timetable/programme of business
 - (v) the Standing Orders for Conference
 - (vi) the consequential rulings on motions

must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by noon on **Wednesday 23th October 2024** by email to conferences@cwu.org Such written notice must advise of the intention to appeal/move reference back to alter the published agenda with details

and reasons for doing so.

After consideration of appeals/reference backs by the SOC, Branches or Regional Committees who have followed the correct appeal/reference back procedure wishing to continue their appeal/reference back must firstly advise the SOC of their continued appeal.

The SOC will then advise the Chair of the Conference the details of the branches/Regional Committees who have the right to address conference at the commencement of business on

Wednesday 30th October 2024.

- b Challenges to other SOC decisions as printed or announced in supplementary SOC reports must be made at the time the supplementary report is moved.
- c All appeals/reference backs will be deemed carried if they have the support of a simple majority of Conference. (SO4 applies)
- d The Retired Members Committee will also be required to follow these procedures.

7. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- a Motions to suspend Standing Orders shall only be allowed to deal with business or circumstances that could not have been foreseen when the timetable/Programme of Business was adopted.
- b The Chairperson may accept a motion for the suspension of Standing Orders provided no motion is on the floor being debated.

Any such motion must state the Standing Order/Orders involved and also state the nature and urgency of the business as to why the suspension is required.

The Chairperson shall immediately refer such a motion to the Standing Orders Committee who shall express their view before the vote is taken. A motion for the suspension of Standing Orders will be carried if supported by a simple majority of the Conference (SO4 applies).

- c At the end of the period of suspension of Standing Orders the Conference shall return to the next business in that section only. No subsequent motion for the variation of the timetable to compensate for time lost by the suspension of a Standing Order/Orders or the discussion of such suspension shall be admissible.

8. BALLOTS

- a There will be a ballot to select two motions this Conference will forward for submission to the 2025 General Conference.

Motions in Section II which are carried are eligible for the ballot for General Conference. The ballot will take place at the end of Section II motions

The ballot box will be open subject to the timetable of Conference and located next to the administration table. The SOC shall be responsible for counting the ballot and advising the Chairperson of the result, which will be announced prior to the close of Conference. In the event of a tie, the SOC will administer an exhaustive ballot.

- b Should there be a request at General Conference to remit a motion in respect of the 2025 Conference motions, the mover of the motion at General Conference will be deemed to have the authority to agree to the remittance on behalf of the 2025 Conference, subject to the agreement of General Conference.

9. PROHIBITIONS

- a The use of mobile telephones are prohibited anywhere within the confines of the Conference Hall.

No documents, posters or banners shall be circulated, distributed or displayed within the Conference Hall without the permission of the Standing Orders Committee.

Timetable and Programme of Business

- 10.00 Registration
- 10.30 Chairpersons opening remarks
- 10.35 General Secretary's Address
- 10.55 Adoption of Retired Members Conference Standing Orders Committee Report (including appeals/reference backs)
- 11.05 Section II – Motions 1-11
- 12.20 Ballot to represent Retired Members at General Conference 2025
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Guest Speaker
- 13.50 Section II - Motions 1-11 continued
- 14.55 Ballot
- 15.05 Tony Kearns, SDGS
- 15.25 Chairpersons closing remarks
- 15.30 Conference closes

DELEGATES ARE REMINDED THAT THE BALLOT BOX WILL BE LOCATED AT THE SOC TABLE.

SECTION II NATIONAL ISSUES

1

If Carried 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9 will Fall

This conference fully condemns the Labour government for the removal of the winter fuel payments from around 10 million pensioners in a cost of living crisis which acts as a lifeline for so many.

Further any attempts to remove the triple lock or downgrading it to a double lock must also be opposed, including concessionary bus passes, free prescriptions and eye sight testing.

Therefore, the National Retired Members Committee working with the NEC are instructed to mount a campaign with other trade unions, the NPC, pensioners charities and any like-minded groups to halt or reverse these decisions. This must include examining our role and relationship with the Labour party.

Eastern Retired Regional Committee

2

If Carried 3 and 4 will Fall

This conference deplores the announcement by Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer to means test the Winter Fuel Allowance. Conference believes this will have a devastating impact on the health of a large number of pensioners. In addition, it will plunge even more of our elderly people into fuel poverty at a time when energy prices are increasing. Conference applauds the CWU for submitting a motion to Labour Party Conference calling on the Govt to reverse this pernicious decision.

Conference instructs the Retried Members Committee to ensure that they work with the NEC to bring this position to the attention of all retired members, to continue to oppose this change at every opportunity and to seek to involve as many retired members as possible to oppose this change. To this end conference further instructs the RMC to call for a letter of protest to be drawn up and signed by individual members of the CWU opposing this cut to be delivered to the Chancellor.

The RMC is instructed accordingly

Retired Members Committee

3

If Carried 4 will Fall

The government announced in July plans to scrap winter fuel payments of up to £300 for pensioners in England and Wales unless they are in receipt of most means-tested benefits. Up to 10 million people are at risk of losing the payment, which was introduced by the Labour government in 1997. This brutal policy will lead to several million older people being plunged into Fuel Poverty potentially leading to ill health and deaths, old people need to keep warm to keep healthy.

Admittedly, it makes no sense to be allocating the Fuel Allowance to millionaire pensioners but the blanket ban by Labour to all those not in receipt of Pension Credit is both cruel and unfair and they need to think again.

A sensible compromise would be that as proposed by campaigning group 'Silver Voices' to link the cut off of payments to those on the higher rate of tax, taking away the government's main argument that millionaire pensioners do not need it whilst helping prevent vulnerable older people from sliding into fuel poverty.

This conference instructs the RMC to work with the NEC to campaign with Silver Voices, the NPC and the TUC a to urge the Labour Party to change its policy on cuts to the Winter Fuel Allowance and to consider the Compromise detailed above.

Somerset, Devon & Cornwall

- 4** Whilst this conference welcomes the election of a Labour government and all that means, the withdrawal of the WINTER HEATING PAYMENT to all pensioners is not a move that can be acceptable to this conference and all pensioners.

This move following on the withdrawal of the FREE TV LICENCES by the previous Conservative Government is a double hit on the pensioners some of who will now be faced with the stark choice of eating or freezing whilst finding it difficult to travel to one of the "warm places" set up by churches, local councils or local charities.

They are then faced with trying to keep warm and whilst not being able to watch the TV as the cost of a TV licence is prohibitive to the lesser well off.

We understand that the payment of the WINTER HEATING ALLOWANCE to all pensioners regardless of their income has to be looked at and a fairer process needs to be put in place in the long run, the complete withdrawal of the payment is grossly unfair to those pensioners with a low income i.e. only the State Pension.

This conference instructs the National Retired Members Committee to work with the TUC and any other outside pensioner's organisations and the NEC to persuade the government to at least reinstate at least fifty percent of the payment until a fairer process governing the payment can be put into place taking into account the income of the pensioners.

The RMC is so instructed.

Great Western

5 COMPOSITE MOTION

In the last two years the Standing Charge levied by energy companies has tripled, rising nearly 200% above inflation. The average person is now paying approximately £300 per year before they use any gas or electricity.

It is wrong that people are charged even if they don't use energy adding to the already vast profits of the energy companies. This conference agrees that the CWU will lead a campaign (as with the "New Deal for Workers") amongst Trade Unions, the NPC and similar organisations to lobby the Labour government to scrap the Standing Charge on all Gas and Electricity bills.

National, Regional and local retired members representatives will take the lead and liaise with the NEC who will assist in supporting the campaign.

The Retired Members Committee is instructed accordingly.

North West Regional Retired Committee
Greater Manchester Amal

- 6** This conference agrees that 14 years of Conservative Government in this country has seen a deterioration in the real terms funding level of the NHS in turn leading to a serious deterioration in patient services .

This conference believes that in order to address these issues it is clear that a radical departure from the current state of funding for the NHS is required, This means direct government investment into this much needed service and a rowing back of the policy of privatisation of the NHS. Whilst privatisation of the NHS means that services are provided outside of direct funding they are provided in order for the company delivering these services to make a profit and as such this goes against the founding principles of NHS.

In numerous surveys and opinion polls carried out the vast majority of the public oppose the privatisation of the NHS. conference is dismayed therefore at the actions of Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Health and Social care, to introduce more privatisation into the NHS

Therefore, this conference rejects the position being set out by the Labour Govt and instructs the RMC to work with the NEC to oppose privatisation within the NHS, to campaign for direct Government funding in the NHS and ensure that the NHS remains true to the principles upon which it was founded.

The NHS should be solely for patient care and not private profit.

Retired Members Committee

- 7** This conference is very concerned about the increasing closure of public toilets in the UK. This has a particularly damaging effect on the elderly, and can lead to serious health problems.

The National Retired Members Committee working with the NEC are instructed to raise the issue with the government and local authorities,

pensioner charities etc with the aim of stopping the decline and examining ways of increasing toilet facilities.

Eastern No.6

- 8** This conference notes the ongoing debate and campaign against the Labour Governments appalling decision to means test the Winter Fuel Allowance (WFA). Notwithstanding our opposition to this decision we must acknowledge the fundamental position that this debate would be rendered unnecessary if the state pension in the UK was of sufficient value for elderly people to live on.

This conference acknowledges that by any measure the UK state pension falls way below the level of what is needed to provide a sufficient living standard and is below the level of most other countries in Europe and beyond.

This conference instructs the RMC to work with the NEC to expose this inadequacy and to use every opportunity possible, including the current position around the Winter Fuel Allowance to immediately raise the state pension to such a level as to make debates about additional payments, such as the WFA unnecessary.

The RMC is instructed accordingly

Retired Members Committee

9 COMPOSITE MOTION

This Conference expresses its concern that this Labour Government has plans to withdraw the Freedom Pass (Bus Pass). These passes are of very great importance to all Pensioners they form the only way they can get out and about using public transport and are encouragement to get Pensioners out rather than being house bound.

Pensioners have already lost a number of benefits, Free Television Licences, Winter Fuel Allowance. The removal of the Freedom Pass is yet another attack on the few remaining benefits that should be available to the Pensioners.

As old age marches on and the ability to drive safely reseeds or is taken away due to ill health, this Government by removing the Freedom pass is saying to the Pensioners, sorry but you may have worked and paid taxes all your working life but once you are unfit to drive then just stay at home and never wander far from your abode.

Should any administration within the UK decide to remove concessionary bus travel or by means testing, the RMC will raise this matter with the NEC with a view to working with any Pensioners Organisation and the TUC, STUC, ICTU & TUC Cymru

to oppose any such move.

The RMC is so instructed.

South West Regional Retired Committee
Plymouth And East Cornwall

- 10** Conference notes LTB 301/24 Retired Members Conference Branch Delegate Entitlement.

Conference further notes that most Branches now have on average 250 members or less resulting in a reduction of Conference delegates. Conference agrees that the NEC Regulations that govern Branch delegate entitlement at the Retired Members Conference be subject to revision with a view to increase overall the Retired Members Conference Branch delegation entitlements. Our Conference must not be allowed to decline.

The Retired Members National Committee is instructed to seek and work with the NEC to achieve this policy.

Greater Mersey Amal

- 11** It is just and proper that all retired members who reach the age of 100 are recognised by this union. It is an error that this union relies on a convoluted and outdated process to recognise their achievement.

So as to rectify this situation, conference instructs the Retired Members Committee to work with the NEC to introduce a centralised method of informing our General Secretaries' department of all such retired members.

Wales Regional Retired Committee

MOTIONS NOT ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA

- 12** Conference welcomes the Government policy of encouraging retired people to claim Pension Credit and other welfare benefits.

Conference however recognises the difficulties many have in claiming due to:

1. A wait of up to an hour on the phone before response or being cut off from the call.
2. The intention of government departments to operate only on line which many retirees find difficulty with.

A solution would be to have a person in every Job Centre in the Country dealing with Pension Credit, and retired peoples Welfare Benefits or tax issues. It would then be possible for individuals to contact their nearest Job Centre to arrange an appointment.

Conference agrees to adopt this policy and campaign to encourage MP's to raise this with the Government.

South East No.5

- 13** This Conference acknowledges that up to 10 million people in the UK lack the very basic foundation skills needed for the digital world and 6.9 million people in the UK will remain digitally excluded if nothing is done to help them. Many of the most vulnerable people within the UK do not have access to digital platforms so they are unable to function and participate in the most basic requirements of our modern society. One of the companies that the CWU represents in, BT, is introducing Digital Voice with an end date of January 2027, this is a phone service which operates with broadband, which will exclude many of their customers who do not have broadband or the required skills to transition from analogue to digital communications. Conference, therefore, instructs the TFSE to demand BT delays indefinitely its Digital Voice changeover and work with the CWU on a programme of digital inclusion for the most vulnerable customers before any changeover begins.

Meridian

- 14** The London Regional Retired Members Committee request the NEC to robustly campaign against the removal or changes of the right to the state pension to all those that have paid into it. This pension should not be means tested.

London Regional Retired Committee

15 Conference is shocked at Labours cutting of the winter fuel allowance, We call on the executive to discuss our continuing support for the Labour Party who no longer represent the needs of working people

Midland Counties

NOTES



RETIRED MEMBERS' CONFERENCE 2024

Name of Branch/Region...../RMAC (delete as appropriate)

Nominations to represent Retired Members at General Conference 2025

Name	Candidate's Branch

**Nominees must be members of the Union, and assigned to the Retired Members Category of Membership.
Nominees must have the nomination of their own Region/Branch and/or the Retired Members Committee.
Members of the Retired Members Committee may be proposed but need to have the nomination of the Retired Members Committee and/or any Branch/Regional Committee.**

I certify that the above-named member(s) have been nominated by the Branch/Region /RMAC (delete as appropriate)

Signature:
(Branch/Regional Secretary)

and/or

Signature:
(Chair/Vice Chair/ RMAC)

**This form should be returned
by email to conferences@cwu.org
or by post to Angela Niven
150 The Broadway
Wimbledon
London SW19 1RX by Noon on
Friday 25th October 2024**