

No. 005/25

15 January 2025

Dear Colleagues,

New Prototype Posting Peg Trial – RM/CWU National Joint Dog Awareness Working Group

Branches and members may recall LTB 216/24 which reported on the New Design Mk2 Posting Peg trial which had been developed via the RM/CWU National Joint Dog Awareness Working Group and which was then subject to a trial at the Derby, Swindon and Dore Delivery units from June to August of last year.

As means of background, the new design Mk2 Posting Peg was trialled based on feedback received that the current existing Red Posting Peg needed to be longer, be more flexible and have the ability to accommodate more letters in the Peg. The Mk2 design received positive feedback from the individuals involved in the trial, with 78% of those who replied saying they were more likely to use the Mk2 Posting Peg, however, the trial also reflected similar feedback to that of the current Red Posting Peg and the need for a longer and more flexible design, with the ability to fit more into it.

Accordingly, this feedback has been further reviewed by the RM/CWU National Joint Dog Awareness Working Group and a new prototype Posting Peg has now been designed and developed for further trial activity. The new prototype Posting Peg, in addition to seeking to address feedback given, also has multiple uses. Although its primary purpose remains a posting aid, to avoid fingers through the letterbox incidents, the updated design also provides:

- A holder for the P739 'Something for you' cards
- Holds a pen
- Provides a flat surface to write on
- Can be used to hold/store elastic bands

The Posting Peg has been made using tough and durable materials and has been designed to fit in both Royal Mail cargo trousers and shorts.

The trial of this new prototype Posting Peg will take place at the Delivery units listed below, with each unit being issued with the outlined number of new prototype Posting Pegs to be tested in the live operational environment.

- Derby (DE) - 20 Posting Pegs
- Swindon (SN) - 5 Posting Pegs
- Chippenham (SN) - 5 Posting Pegs
- Dore (S) - 10 Posting Pegs (TBC)
- Rye (TN) - 10 Posting Pegs

The trial will commence from Monday 20th January and is planned to run for four weeks.

Derby, Swindon and the Dore Delivery units were trial locations for the Mk2 Posting Peg back in 2024 and have again been selected for this new trial to generate feedback on the new prototype against the former MK2 design.

As a means of further information on this trial, please find attached a SHE Huddle briefing due to be issued at each of the trial sites.

In advance of the trial activity being launched in each unit, remote meeting calls have been set up to outline the details and aims of the trial which will involve the relevant unit COMs, SHE advisors, and ASRs.

On completion of the trial, feedback will be sought directly from those involved via a QR code, with the feedback then being reviewed by the RM/CWU National Joint Dog Awareness Working Group in terms of the next steps.

From the CWU perspective, this trial of a new prototype Posting Peg is welcomed, as based on the latest figures shared by Royal Mail, circa 389 dog bites through the letterbox incidents were reported last year. Accordingly, I have no hesitation in encouraging our Safety and IR Reps, alongside members in the listed units, to fully support and engage in the trial and equally provide feedback via the QR code once issued.

Finally, and in setting out the above, it is relevant to remind Branches that letterbox bites are reportable as an offence under the Dangerous Dog Act (Section 3), which followed the Court of Appeal decision in 2022 whereby postal workers do have applied access rights at letterboxes and as such, are protected by the Act. Sadly, there remains some confusion in this regard and over trespassing laws, with even some Police Officers offering wrong advice on this issue if hands/fingers accidentally enter the letterbox aperture. The full details of the Court of Appeal ruling were set out in LTB 220/22.

Further updates in terms of this trial and outputs will be issued in due course, but in the meantime any enquiries regarding the content of this LTB should be directed to the Outdoor Department, email address: Pharacz@cwu.org.


Yours sincerely,

Tony Bouch
Assistant Secretary



Safety, Health, and Environment (SHE) Huddle (signature not mandatory)



Huddle Date:		20/01/2025	Ref:	SHE Huddle – National posting peg trial		
Audience:	Processing	Delivery	Collections	Distribution	PFW	Specific Work Area
	All Delivery Employees in trial units					
Overview:		National trial of a new posting peg. Your unit has been selected as a trial office. Your feedback will be critical for deciding the next steps.				
Message						
<p>The posting peg is a key piece of equipment for preventing fingers through letterbox injuries. A new, updated tool has been designed which has multiple uses. Whilst its primary purpose is to push mail through the letterbox and keep your fingers safe, out of harm’s way, the updated design also provides a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holder for the P739 ‘Something for you’ cards• Pen holder• Flat surface to write on <p>It has been made using tough, durable materials and has been designed to fit in the cargo trousers and shorts.</p> <div></div> <p>Your unit has been selected to trial this new tool and your feedback will be critical in deciding next steps.</p> <p>Your unit previously trialled the white peg, which was similar to the current red version but offered greater flexibility, was slightly longer and you could fit more mail in the end. Your feedback from that trial was invaluable, with 78% of employees saying they were more likely to use it. We also wanted to offer you another option to consider.</p> <p>The trial will commence on 20/01/2025 and will run for 4 weeks. Thereafter, we would like to hear your thoughts about this design. It will only take a couple of minutes to leave your feedback and a QR code will be provided.</p> <p>Your safety is paramount, and this equipment has been designed to prevent fingers through letterbox injuries.</p> <p>Remember: Never put fingers through a letterbox.</p>						
Actions						
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Brief the attached communication.➤ Provide the new posting peg to employees.➤ Look out for the QR code, which will be provided at the end of this trial and ask all employees to complete this.						
Supporting Information						
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were 389 fingers through letterbox incidents last year, with some significant injuries amongst these.						

