

No. 185/26

25<sup>th</sup> June 2026

To: All Branches & Field Officials

Dear Colleagues,

## REVIEW OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE & THE DEFERMENT OF THE ELECTION OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Branches and Representatives will recall the commitment contained within the report to the Special Restructuring Conference in June 2025, to review the Standing Orders Committee (SOC). For ease of reference this is reproduced below:

*“We will continue to ensure that our Standing Orders Committee (SOC) is able to scrutinise our Conference processes, timetable and ensure rules and standards are adhered to. However, the NEC and SOC will review the current way of working, including better utilisation of virtual working and creating savings, to ensure that it can work in the most efficient way possible”*

The review of the SOC forms an integral strand of our Restructuring work. A ‘terms of reference’ for the review of the SOC, including the timescales involved was endorsed by the NEC at a meeting on 24 June 2026 and is **attached** for information purposes. We now intend to commence the review of the SOC in accordance with the terms of reference and the policy agreed at the Special Restructuring Conference in June 2025.

Branches will further be aware that the SOC is covered by national rule 10.8. This rule also references the biennial electoral cycle for these positions. The last elections for the SOC were held in 2024 and therefore the next series of elections were due to take place.

The NEC agreed it would however be nonsensical to hold the elections for the SOC, at a time when a review of the SOC is in progress. The election is therefore deferred and will be held once the review of the SOC has been completed..

Any enquiries should be addressed to [dwilshire@cwu.org](mailto:dwilshire@cwu.org)

Yours sincerely



Karen Rose  
**Acting General Secretary**

## **CWU Standing Orders Committee (SOC) Review 2026**

Further to NEC document 47/26

Members of the NEC will be aware that the following policy was agreed at the Special restructuring Conference held in Blackpool in June 2025:

*“We will continue to ensure that our Standing Orders Committee (SOC) is able to scrutinise our Conference processes, timetable and ensure rules and standards are adhered to. However, the NEC and SOC will review the current way of working, including better utilisation of virtual working and creating savings, to ensure that it can work in the most efficient way possible”*

In it is now necessary to take the next steps in conducting the review mentioned in the above policy.

Accordingly, please below the proposed Terms of Reference for the review and timeline for the SOC Review

### Proposed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the SOC Review

In accordance with the CWU Rule book the SOC are primarily responsible for arranging the timetable and order of business for the following CWU Conference (s) –

CWU Biennial Conference

Young Workers Annual Conference

Retired members Annual Conference.

In respect of the approach for the SOC review - we believe that a review group should be established to:

1. Conduct a thorough review of the current SOC way of working and the administration arrangements including reviewing the current processes, workload, format, composition and size of the SOC.
2. Consider how the CWU/SOC can make better utilisation of virtual working that results in a more efficient way of working
3. The review will need to examine and consider all aspects of the current SOC arrangements with a view to creating financial savings that will form part of the ongoing restructuring and modernisation of the CWU.
4. Produce a report, including recommendations to be placed before a future NEC for consideration and approval.

It is therefore proposed that the review is conducted using a phased approach as set out below.

### **Phase 1 (Planning)**

This will involve a small project planning group consisting of;

- CWU President and Vice President
- 2 Senior Policy Advisors from the General Secretary/Central Services Office
- Additional administrative support as required

## **Phase 2 (Report and Recommendations)**

Following the planning stage that in addition to the above group membership Phase 2 will also include;

2 senior members of the current SOC (one from the Postal Constituency and one from the TFS Constituency)

2 NEC members (one from the Postal Constituency and one from the TFS Constituency)

### **Proposed Timeline**

**August/September 26** – Initial Planning meeting(s) of the SOC Review group to take place (Phase 1)

**October/November 26** – Phase 2 meetings to commence

**December 26** – Draft Report and Recommendations produced and presented to the General Secretary.

**January 27** – The report to be placed before the NEC for consideration and approval

**February 27** – Consider Next Steps and Conduct Branch Communication exercise