LETTER TO BRANCHES

The Communications Union @CWUNews #TheCWU CWU.ORG

No: 292/26

29th October 2026

TO: ALL BRANCHES

Dear Colleague,

Core / Online Education & Training Programme 2027

The purpose of this LTB is to advise Branches that the NEC has endorsed a programme of courses for 2027.

Core Residential Programme

Arrangements have been made for our residential training programme to be delivered at the GFTU owned Quorn Grange Hotel, 88 Wood Lane, Quorn, LE12 8DB.

Representative's accommodation costs on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis will be met centrally.

Branches are responsible for student travel and any other appropriate expenses.

Scheduled Programme 2027

The programme cuts across all the specialisms that our representatives perform incorporating both accredited and unaccredited courses:

- Skills courses all include elements of industrial / employment relations, negotiating and organising

- Health & Safety courses lead representatives through theory and practice of legislation and organising around Health and Safety

- Equal Rights deal with equality and diversity in the workplace and wider society.

Full details of each course can be found on our website here:
https://education.cwu.org/education/rep-courses

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General Secretary: Dave Ward | @DaveWardGS | Dave Ward CWU

Residential Programme 2027

Start	Finish	Course	Cut off date
04/01/2027	06/01/2027	Mental Health Awareness	07/12/2026
11/01/2027	15/01/2027	Essential Skills Part 1	07/12/2026
25/01/2027	29/01/2027	Introduction to Health & Safety Part 1	14/12/2026
01/02/2027	05/02/2027	Essential Skills Part 1	28/12/2026
08/02/2027	12/02/2027	Introduction to Health & Safety Part 1	28/12/2026
15/02/2027	19/02/2027	Postal Agreements	04/01/2027
01/03/2027	05/03/2027	Union Learning Reps Part 1	18/01/2027
12/04/2027	16/04/2027	TBC	01/03/2027
26/04/2027	30/04/2027	Essential Skills Part 2	15/03/2027
10/05/2027	14/05/2027	Introduction to Health & Safety Part 1	29/03/2027
17/05/2027	21/05/2027	Introduction to Health & Safety Part 2	05/04/2027
21/06/2027	25/06/2027	TBC	10/05/2027
05/07/2027	09/07/2027	Essential Skills Part 2	24/05/2027
12/07/2027	16/07/2027	Introduction to Health & Safety Part 1	31/05/2027
19/07/2027	23/07/2027	Postal Agreements	07/06/2027
26/07/2027	30/07/2027	TBC	14/06/2027
09/08/2027	13/08/2027	Essential Skills Part 1	28/06/2027
23/08/2027	27/08/2027	Essential Skills Part 2	12/07/2027
20/09/2027	22/09/2027	Women in the CWU	09/08/2027
22/09/2027	24/09/2027	LGBT+ in the CWU	11/08/2027
27/09/2027	01/10/2027	Postal Agreements	16/08/2027
04/10/2027	08/10/2027	Essential Skills Part 1	23/08/2027
04/10/2027	06/10/2027	BAME Representatives in the CWU	23/08/2027
15/11/2027	19/11/2027	TBC	04/10/2027

Online Programme 2027

Start	Finish	Course	Cut off date
18/01/2027	22/01/2027	Postal Agreements	07/12/2026
01/02/2027	05/02/2027	Essential Skills Part 2	28/12/2026
22/02/2027	26/02/2027	Intermediate Health & Safety Part 1	11/01/2027
08/03/2027	12/03/2027	Introduction to Health & Safety Part 2	25/01/2027
15/03/2027	19/03/2027	Essential Skills Part 1	01/02/2027
22/03/2027	23/03/2027	Mental Health Awareness	08/02/2027
05/04/2027	09/04/2027	Introduction to Health & Safety Part 1	22/02/2027
19/04/2027	23/04/2027	TBC	08/03/2027
10/05/2027	14/05/2027	Intermediate Health & Safety Part 1	29/03/2027
24/05/2027	28/05/2027	Postal Agreements	12/04/2027
07/06/2027	11/06/2027	Essential Skills Part 2	26/04/2027
14/06/2027	18/06/2027	Introduction to Health & Safety Part 2	03/05/2027
28/06/2027	02/07/2027	Essential Skills Part 1	17/05/2027
12/07/2027	16/07/2027	Postal Agreements	01/06/2027
02/08/2027	06/08/2027	Intermediate Health & Safety Part 2	21/06/2027
16/08/2027	20/08/2027	Essential Skills Part 1	05/07/2027
06/09/2027	10/09/2027	Introduction to Health & Safety Part 1	26/07/2027
13/09/2027	17/09/2027	Postal Agreements	02/08/2027
11/10/2027	15/10/2027	Essential Skills Part 1	30/08/2027
18/10/2027	22/10/2027	Essential Skills Part 2	06/09/2027
25/10/2027	29/10/2027	Introduction to Health & Safety Part 2	13/09/2027
01/11/2027	05/11/2027	Postal Agreements	20/09/2027
08/11/2027	12/11/2027	Intermediate Health & Safety Part 2	27/09/2027

All of the above is subject to the necessary funding being available.

Application Process

Branch Secretary's and Branch Admins should continue to use the OLS Portal, **please make sure applicants emails are up to date**.

Release & Notice

Paid release should normally apply where the union is recognised and/or in line with any existing agreements.

Online courses

Online learners must preferably have access to a good PC or laptop. Tablets can be used but have some limitation in our experience. Attending training courses using a mobile phone is not possible.

There must be a stable internet connection from where the learning is taking place.

Colleges will also be in contact before the course to advise of any additional requirements.

We would appreciate Branches / ULRs assistance in ensuring any applicants are prepared in line with the above points. If any representative encounters difficulties getting set up with IT equipment in preparation for course attendance, please advise their Branch Secretary, Union Learning Rep or the Equality, Education & Development department as soon as possible.

Any queries on this LTB should be directed to courseadmin@cwu.org

Yours sincerely,



Kate Hudson
Head of Equality, Education & Development