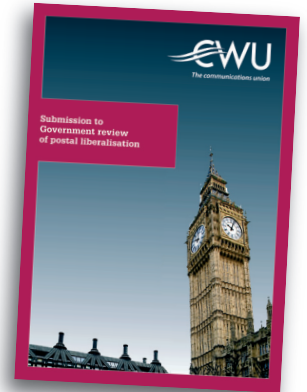


TO ALL CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTIES

THE GOVERNMENT REVIEW ON COMPETITION AND ROYAL MAIL'S PENSION REFORMS



Dear Colleague,

In December last year the Government announced the terms of reference for its Review of the UK postal services sector. This very important review is being conducted by an independent panel headed by Richard Hooper CBE – formerly Deputy Chairman of the Office of Communications (Ofcom).

The Communication Workers Union campaigned for a Review precisely because we recognised the damaging impact competition would have on Royal Mail's commercial viability and its ability to sustain the UK's universal postal service and vital PO network.

The CWU has made a comprehensive submission to this Review and we have presented a copy of this to your Member of Parliament. We are due to make a further submission to the review panel on the critically important issue of the Universal Service Obligation (USO). These submissions are available to view from the CWU website www.cwu.org

You may have recently seen the Review Team's initial response which was widely reported in the media. We can agree with some of its analysis particularly its pronouncement that "liberalisation of the UK postal services has produced no significant benefit for either household or small business."

As a union, we are determined to seek whatever changes are required to ensure that this Labour Government meets its duty to safeguard the Universal Service Obligation and delivers on all of its manifesto commitments to Royal Mail, its customers and its employees – our members. That is why we are embarking on a major campaign which will create a public and political debate about the future of Royal Mail and its role as a public service.

You would also wish to know that as part of that campaign we will be strongly urging the Government to rethink their reforms of the Royal Mail Pension scheme. On 1st April 2008 changes were introduced, without union agreement, which ended the final salary scheme, increased the retirement from 60 to 65 and introduced an inferior scheme for new-starters. We do not accept that our members should pay the price for the mistakes made by Royal Mail or the Government. Without changes to the present reforms the Company is heading for an Industrial dispute with the CWU.

We are writing to all Constituency Labour Parties to ask for your support to deliver the vital reforms we believe are needed to safeguard the USO, to support the Post Office network and to maintain the hard won conditions of service our members so rightly deserve. We are calling on all CLPs to assist us in our fight and we would welcome the opportunity for our local CWU officers to discuss with you personally the key aspects of our Campaign. We are happy to meet with your CLP Officers or to address one of your meetings if you feel this to be more beneficial. One of our local Branch Officials will contact you in due course to discuss these arrangements.

This is a crucial time for the future of postal services in the UK and we hope we can count on your support. Post really does matter!

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Billy Hayes
General Secretary



Dave Ward
Deputy General Secretary (P)