

Scottish Socialist Party



Party

POSTAL WORKERS VOICE

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STAND FIRM AND DELIVER A VICTORY on jobs, pay, public services, pensions



- With inflation official-ly at 4.8%, Royal Mail's offer of a 2.5% pay rise is an absolute pay cut.
- Royal Mail's business plan cuts of £1.5billion over the next 5 years means savage cuts to

jobs and services.

- Attacks on jobs, pay and special payments are the last straw after years of morale-sap-ping treatment by the bosses.

postal workers' voices

The Scottish Socialist Party offers 100% support to the postal workers and your families in the battle to win a decent pay rise; to defend 40,000 jobs from the axemen; to defend public services from Mail Centre, Delivery Office and Crown Post office closures - £350m of cuts this year alone.

We will do all in our powers to publicise your case - and to help you counter the barefaced lies from the fatcat Royal Mail bosses who claim the CWU wants a 27% pay rise. The only people getting that kind of rise (and NOT just asking for it!) are the **underworked and overpaid directors** of profiteering companies.

Being told you are 'underworked and overpaid' by £20,000 a week Leighton is beyond belief. Nobody goes on strike for the hell of it. The union did everything possible to reach a negotiated settlement, meeting the employers through ACAS, only to be told the same old crap. It seems clear the bosses are more interested in trying to break the power of the union than they are in breaking a deadlock on pay, jobs and their vicious, distorted version of 'modernisation'.

They chose to ignore the massive YES vote in the strike ballot. Now the gloves are off! They will not be able to ignore the impact of strike action by 130,000 workers. Stand firm and united - you do not stand alone.

"This is a fight to save the industry and to save our jobs. Leighton has had it too easy for 2-3 years, especially since the strike ballot went down a couple of years ago, since when he thinks he can do anything he likes. This 3:1 vote for strike action will have been a shock to his system.

With up to 40,000 job losses, and closures of Mail Centres, Delivery Offices and Crown Post Offices, we have got to fight back.

In the Mail Centres they want to do away with weekend work. Of course you shouldn't have to rely on overtime, but that's a fact of life in the industry. So they are offering us an £8 a week pay rise but they will take back about £50, which is how much a

Sunday shift is worth. This is an attack on our pensions, on our future, from the same Leighton who is on £20,000 a week but has the cheek to call us underworked and over-paid."

A Mail Centre worker

"At the minute we do a maximum of 3 deliveries of unaddressed leaflets a week and we get paid for the hassle. But Royal Mail want to increase that to 5 items a week - without any payments.

"There is also talk of removing the payments we get for the massive extra workload of delivering election leaflets. For example, I got £200 for the recent Scottish elections, so these payments mean a lot to low paid workers."

A member of Scotland no 2 CWU branch

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postal workers' voices continued.....

"It's a race to the bottom. Two Royal Mail directors resigned last year in protest at the panic over competition, saying there is absolutely no strategic thinking and that the bosses' panic will create a nightmare for the future.

There is no scope for cuts. Whether Royal Mail or TNT have their label on the letter, posties still have to deliver it. The amount of mail is not decreasing - even managers privately concede that. So what they really want is more work done for less money.

And even if there were no plans for 40,000 job cuts, we still face a pay cut when you look at inflation."

An Edinburgh postie

←————→
"In the Delivery Offices they want 5 posties to do 6 posties' walks during the summer leave period. The bosses argue the volume of mail drops in the summer - but the distance walked on the rounds doesn't change!"

A Glasgow postie

"Royal Mail has had £1.6billion off the government six months ago. They talk about investing that in machinery, despite always saying their greatest asset is the workforce.

Two years ago they told us we were great. The industry had been losing £1m a year and we turned it round. Now once again the workforce is being blamed for the situation we find the industry in.

On pensions, we are constantly told about the pension scheme deficit. **What the bosses don't mention so often is the 17 year pension holiday taken by the employer, where they paid nothing into the scheme.** Again it's the workforce who are being asked to pay the price for the bosses' actions and mismanagement born of greed."

a Mail Centre CWU Unit Rep



SSP- the workers' party

It is the SSP - and ONLY the SSP - that has fought since 1998 to abolish the Council Tax and tax the rich their fair share in our progressive income-based Scottish Service Tax - which would benefit 80% of Scots AND raise an extra £800m for local jobs and services.

For free school meals for every child. To scrap all NHS prescription charges. To get rid of all anti-union laws - used to break up the unity and solidarity of workers.

To end war. To scrap Trident - use the £100bn saved on health, education, housing, services and a free public transport system.

For an independent socialist Scotland that puts the millions before the millionaires

- free healthy school meals and quality childcare for all
- £8 minimum wage for all over 16 - equal pay for women
- scrap the Council Tax - tax the rich
- free public transport for all
- 100,000 new public sector houses for affordable rent over 4 years
- public ownership of banks, big industry, services and N Sea oil
- an independence referendum
- an independent, nuclear free, socialist Scotland

Reject the parties of the millionaires - Labour AND SNP. Reject lies and sleaze. Join the party of principled socialism - the SSP.



Rolls Royce service on Ford Fiesta wages!

Postcomm chief executive Sarah Chambers has given the game away about cuts to public services being planned. She spoke of how "sympathetic" the regulator is to ideas of **reducing daily deliveries from 6 to 5 days a week, and of ending door-to-door deliveries in blocks of flats.**

She complained that the current set-up is too much of a 'Rolls Royce' service compared to some of Europe. No mention of the 'Ford Fiesta' or 'Lada' wages suffered by the Royal Mail workforce compared to much of Europe!

Join the SSP - the party of public ownership, solidarity and socialism

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