

# Scottish Socialist Party



# Party

## POSTAL WORKERS VOICE

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# UNITE against BOSSES' OFFENSIVE build solidarity demos and collections

**The Scottish Socialist Party continues to give 100% backing to the Royal Mail strikers, who have been forced to escalate action against bosses who make a mockery of negotiations and seem hell-bent on even worse attacks than before the pause in the strikes.**

RM bosses now want to scrap Final Salary Pensions, raise the retirement age to 65 by 2010, and cut £1.6billion off pension benefits - a loss of £10,000 on average for every postie. Their new Career Average Scheme would cut future pensions.

These arrogant millionaire bosses want to impose these attacks - alongside the continued threat to 40,000 jobs, creeping privatisation, and a derisory pay offer below inflation, with enough strings attached to hang an army. They are out to weaken the union as a protective shield for workers' jobs, pay and conditions. They are out to destroy the entire public service, with their wholesale closures and cuts threatening disaster - whilst TNT and others pile up profits in the rigged market.

**The bosses are in no mood for compromise - neither should the CWU.**

RM bosses squander £millions of public funds in propaganda to try and defeat

the strike. So the Scottish Socialist Party - both within and outwith the CWU - fully supports ideas like door-to-door leafleting putting the union's case and public marches and rallies to bring the issues to the fuller attention of the public and other workers on strike.

**We strongly support coordinated days of strike action with others in dispute - such as PCS members in the civil service. All public sector workers face the same assaults from Brown's government.**

**A national demo** in Glasgow or Edinburgh or Gordon Brown's Kirkcaldy could help win public support and pressurise the government and Royal Mail bosses into reversing their brutal cuts to jobs, pay, pensions and public service delivery.

And if the current 4 days of action doesn't shift these arrogant axe-wielders, the union will need further escalation, with street collections, workplace collections to sustain a longer period of strike action.

**Public support is there. Demos, street collections and workplace solidarity tours - which the Scottish Socialist Party is more than willing to help the CWU carry out - could tap into that support and fund the fight to a victory.**

## postal workers' voices

"Royal Mail has come back with even more strings than before the recent talks. They are offering a pay rise of 6.7% over 2 years - which is not even keeping up with inflation. **But for that we are expected to sell our souls.**

They want Total Flexibility. Under their proposals a manager can just give you one week's notice of starting times that can be 2 hours earlier or 2 hours later than normal. So you could be expected to start at 5am or 9am instead of 7am. Nobody can plan their lives that way.

Alongside that they want Annualised Hours - working longer in the winter, shorter hours in the summer. We would lose overtime payments in the process - and face

extremely long hours in the winter weather, which is horrendous."

**Member of CWU Scotland no 2**

"Royal Mail want to treat 'door-to-door' as normal mail - without any payment whatsoever for the likes of general election literature.

Earlier in the dispute they wanted to increase the number of these deliveries to 5, but only pay us for 3 of them. But now they've come back and said they want to pay for none of them. Combined with loss of pressure overtime this would mean a loss of £40 to £50 a week for most posties.

Last week, for example, I earned about £25 for door-to-doors and £15 in pressure overtime. If RM get their way that £40 would disappear, and there is no way the 6.7% over 2 years would compensate for it."

**A Falkirk postie**

"Bosses' plans would mean you had no finishing time - you would finish work when RM say so! Family life would be wrecked."

**A Glasgow postie**



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# Scottish Socialist Party - postal workers VOICE

## STOP FUNDING LABOUR'S NEW TORIES

"The problem is partly the link between the union and the Labour party. We got stuff from the union recommending Alan Johnston as Labour's deputy leader. But he was one of the people who stitched us up, accepting the opening up of the Royal Mail to market competition. So by sticking to New Labour the union limits its ability to fight competition and job losses."

*A member of CWU Scotland no 2 branch*



Too many national union leaders put their hopes in the delusion that 'Brown will be different'. Who's that standing beside Maggie Thatcher? Who invited her to 10 Downing St recently?

The Scottish Socialist Party believes the CWU leadership should break the link with New Labour. Handing over members' funds to the party of privatisation, pay cuts and savage job losses, the party of war - is like giving petrol money to an arsonist to torch your house. Gordon Brown is just as much behind the attacks on wages, jobs and the public sector as Blair - first as Chancellor, now as Prime Minister. He has kept the same anti-union laws. He is the same fan of Maggie Thatcher! Make the break from the New Labour New Tories - join the SSP, the party of workers' unity and socialism.



"The bosses want to make 5 posties cover 6 shifts at times of higher annual leave in the summer. That would mean around an extra 100 doors to be delivered each.

Their excuse is that the mail is lighter in the summer. But it makes no real difference whether you have to deliver one letter or three to a door, you still have to walk to it. And they don't apply the same logic to deliveries in the winter by putting extra posties on to cover the shifts when the mail volume is higher! No talk of 7 posties covering 6 shifts then!"

*A Mail Centre CWU Unit Rep*

## DIFFERENT PLANETS

Gordon Brown has demanded public sector pay be restricted to increases below 2%, when inflation is 4.8%. Public sector pay rises are lagging behind the rest of the economy - with pay rises at their lowest since May 1998.

But the bigger crime is the growing chasm between the incomes of workers and bosses across society.

**Bosses' pay rose by 37% last year - to an average of £2,875,000 for the fatcats of the top 100 firms.**

On average, they enjoy **66 times** the wage of 'their' workers if salaries alone are accounted for, rising to **99 times** that of their staff if share options are added in to the calculations! This is obscene, to put it mildly. A century ago, the banker JP Morgan, himself no pauper, said no company should have a boss-to-worker income differential greater than 20:1.

So today's capitalists would bring blushes to even some of their own class's money-grabbing predecessors.

**STRIKE FOR DECENT, NATIONAL PAY INCREASES - AND JOIN THE SSP TO CHALLENGE THE OBSCENE INEQUALITY UNDER CAPITALISM.**

## 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 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.**

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

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