

Support Our Postal Workers and help Defend Our Postal Service!



Over the last number of weeks the media have been trying to present this dispute as unnecessary, unwarranted and imply that the CWU is entirely responsible, that they are unable to accept change. This is not the case.

What are the real issues?

The real motivation for these attacks on the Post Office and the workforce is to destroy Royal Mail as a public service. The Government and Royal Mail have realised that the CWU is the last line of defence for the Post Office and they are set on destroying the union.

When government talk of the 'part-privatisation' of Royal Mail what they mean is that they want to privatisation the profitable bits, and leave the public with the burden of financing the rest.

When they talk of modernisation they really mean they are making cuts and savings to set the Royal Mail up to be sold off to a private company.

What is the background to the current dispute?

The CWU and Royal Mail reached an agreement in 2007, RM have since shelved parts of that agreement and introduced a 'business plan' which essentially involved a massive job cut.

Over the last year the CWU ran a successful campaign to keep the post public and stop it being privatized. Through there actions the CWU with community support saved a vital public service.

What is happening on the ground?

The blocking of privatisation was the motive for Royal Mail bosses to start an assault on the working conditions of postal workers across the UK. This dispute is a result of that assault, postal workers have been left with no option but to take strike action

RM are no longer hiring permanent staff when someone becomes ill or leaves the job, their duties are spread out among the remainder of the workforce— the ever increasing workload is causing significant stress and anxiety to the workforce who are being forced to work extra hours for no extra money and to carry heavier bags and walk longer routes.

Management are consistently bullying and harassing workers who are struggling to cope to the point where many feel they have no choice but to leave the job.

These issues are not focused on London but are widespread throughout the UK

Some facts and figures— what the media aren't telling you:

- Although there has been a 10% reduction in letters being posted because of the internet, there had also been a massive increase in parcels because of online shopping. There has also been a 30% reduction in staff!
- Over 60, 000 jobs have been shed over the past 5 years.
- Royal Mail have hired 30, 000 temporary agency staff to break the strike, these workers are agency workers they have no rights to holidays, sick pay, are on minimum wage and can be let go at any time—if Royal Mail privatise they will want all staff to work under these conditions.
- Royal Mail posted profits this year of £321million—why is there not some inward investment into a vital public service?
- Chief Executive Adam Crozier pocketed £3m and £1.2m in pay and bonuses in successive years, the average wage of a postal worker is £18, 000.
- The Labour Party has taken a 13 year break from paying into Royal Mail's pension scheme.

This is an attack on the community and the whole trade union movement

A leaked document from Royal Mail shows that they have set out in this dispute to do no less than destroy the CWU, during negotiations they were sending out letters to CWU members encouraging them to scab. (available on website)

If Royal Mail bosses and government succeed in destroying one of the strongest trade unions in the country they will go on to attack other workers and their unions.

This attack on the Postal Service is yet another attack on our public services, private companies again are looking to destroy our services so that they can increase profits. The recent collapse in the world economy was caused by private company greed and it seems that they have not learnt the lesson. If recent history shows us anything it is that privatisation doesn't work!

It might be the posties today but it could be you tomorrow! It is crucial that the public make a stand to support our postal workers who are fighting to defend their livelihoods, their union and our postal service!

How can I get involved?

The CWU already has the support of all local councils and political parties in Northern Ireland but if the CWU are to be successful in their dispute they will need the support and backing of the public.

To assist the postal workers you can:

> Write to your local MLA or Councillor and ask how they are supporting postal workers who are on strike

Your can get their contact details on www.theyworkforyou.org

> Get involved in debate!. In addition to writing letters you can post comments on websites of local newspapers to voice your support

> Put up a poster in your window to show your support (available on website)

> Tell Royal Mail what you think, see the 'Contact Us' section on www.royalmail.co.uk

> Come to the **Trade Union Rally on 6th November at Belfast City Hall**

> You can come to the picket lines, times will be posted on our website

> You can pass a copy of this leaflet on to friends and colleagues

Want to know more?

If you want to find out more about the dispute or how to get involved please check out our website:

www.belfasttradescouncil.com



Belfast & District Trades Union Council
'An injury to one, is an injury to all!'

