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GENERAL

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Liaison Meetings with CWU Group MPs

The following meetings with CWU Group MPs have now been arranged and, for your information, listed below are the dates of the meetings and those nominated to attend:

17 July 2007

PFMC Members to be nominated following Annual Conference, and a representative from the South West Regional Political Committee.

Billy Hayes
General Secretary

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Branch Magazine Competition

The annual awards rewarding the very best CWU branch magazines are up for grabs once again – and the competition will reach its climax next month at Annual Conference.

To enter, all you have to do is decide which edition of the magazine was your best of the last twelve months and send three copies to: **Marcia Murray**, CWU Communications Department, 150 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London, SW19 1RX.

Deadline for entries is **Friday May 18**, so don't delay – not least because as in previous years substantial prizes are at stake. Communications Department.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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Harassment Complaints Database: Union Policy

Branches are again reminded of the need to fill in the Harassment Complaints Database (HCD) Forms, as illustrated in LTB 450/04.

Please ensure that all reps have a copy of LTB 450/04 as it contains useful guidance as well as the form itself. Branches may also find LTB 289/04 useful which contains information on the Harassment Helpline and the Harassment Advice Network as well as the HCD. The completion of the HCD forms is part of our agreement with the Equal Opportunities Commission and is, therefore, CWU policy (the full agreement can be found in LTB 292/04).

The Equal Opportunities Commission has raised concerns with us regarding the completion rate, which we need to address, otherwise we will fall foul of the agreement. Therefore, please ensure that any complaint raised with branch reps by members that involves possible harassment should be notified to HQ via these forms.

We appreciate that this will add to an already busy work schedule for those reps that have the responsibility for completing them, but there is no scope for non-compliance. We must accept that this will become an accepted culture in terms of harassment reporting.

The data that will come through to HQ will be vital in enabling us to analyse and identify any obvious patterns where problems exist.

We extend our appreciation to all those branches already complying with the policy and look forward to the co-operation of all branches in this matter.

Any enquiries regarding this paragraph please contact **Michèle Emerson** at CWU HQ.

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Mandatory Equality & Diversity Training

Branch secretaries are requested to ensure

that any person in their branch who has CWU rep responsibilities and has not yet completed their mandatory Equality & Diversity training are enrolled in the courses that are planned throughout the regions in the forthcoming months.

All reps must do the training – this includes divisional reps, area reps, unit reps and branch officers. For clarification on dates please contact either your regional secretary.

The training has been running now for over three years and there are still a substantial number of reps who have not completed the training. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Equal Opportunities Department.

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Equality Conference Audit

Branches will be aware that those of you who have not sent a delegate to any of the CWU Equality Conferences over a three-year period have been written to asking for an explanation as to why this is the case.

The department thanks the many branch secretaries who have responded positively outlining plans to make progress in these areas. Those branch secretaries who have not replied to the letter will shortly be receiving a letter from the general secretary and we advise you all to get your replies in as soon as possible.

For your information the LGBT and Disability Conferences have been very well attended but there were still a considerable number of CWU branches who did not attend.

The Women's Conference and Black Workers' Conference have been advertised via LTBs and the *Voice* and we hope to see a marked increase in branches attending these conferences too.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

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NICE Advice and Guidance to Employers on Smoking

'NICE' The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued advice and guidance on the support that smokers should be offered in their workplace to help them quit smoking. The new advice comes as workplaces in England prepare to go smoke free from **1 July**, creating an additional opportunity to help improve health by supporting those smokers who want to give up. The advice is targeted at employers and health professionals.

Reducing smoking and tobacco-related harm is a key government strategy for improving the health of people in England and reducing health inequalities. After 1 July 2007, smoking will be prohibited in virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England and the rest of the UK. Failure to comply will be an offence.

The guidance says: 'Employers are not legally obliged to help employees to stop smoking. However, employers that do provide cessation support could reduce the risk of non-compliance with the law, as well as taking advantage of the opportunity it offers to improve people's health. They will also benefit from reduced sickness absence and increased productivity.' It is estimated that on average non-smokers take 8 fewer sick days than smokers.

This guidance is for NHS and non-NHS professionals and employers who have a role in – or responsibility for – supporting and encouraging employees who smoke to quit. This includes those working in local authorities and the community, voluntary and private sectors.

The guidance recommends the most effective and cost effective approaches. These range from providing information on local stop smoking services and allowing people who smoke to attend these services during working hours without loss of pay, to the provision of such services in the workplace itself.

The guidance is available at the following link: <http://www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=424888>

All enquires concerning the above should be addressed to **Dave Joyce**, National Health, Safety & Environment Officer quoting **ref: E3**.

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Call to Teach 'Cancer Awareness' in Schools

A consortium of interested voluntary organisations including the Men's Health Forum (MHF) are calling on the Government to teach 'cancer awareness' in schools.

The Department of Education and Skills is currently conducting a review of the National Curriculum. The MHF has joined with The Institute of Cancer Research, the Teenage

Cancer Trust, Orchid Cancer, the Caron Keating Foundation, Checkmads and the Maria Watt Leukaemia Foundation in urging the Department that as part of this review, cancer awareness be included in a PSHE unit called 'Healthy Lifestyles'.

The Campaign group says its aim as part of The Healthy School and Every Child Matters Agenda is that cancer awareness is specifically mentioned for the guidance of all Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) teachers throughout the UK.

They are also calling on the Department of Education and Skills to include a section on the Teachers Resources page for PSHE dealing with the major cancers and with contacts for the charities involved. 'This would then match the present resources available for such subject areas as HIV/AIDS, STDs and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.'

The campaign group stated that 'Testicular cancer' is the most common cancer in young men from 15-35 and has a 99% cure rate if caught early enough and yet currently young men and boys are still dying because of the lack of knowledge. So many young men have died from testicular cancer alone which is unnecessary. As an example, recently another two young boys in Middlesbrough, who have died from testicular cancer, aged 16 and 17. Schools in this area do not, it seems, give any form of awareness talk. The group wants to empower our young people to recognise early symptoms of cancers, and assist them to be able to react quickly – and with conviction because they know their bodies'

Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

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Yorkshire and Humber Safety Reps Network

The Yorkshire and Humberside safety representatives network have set up a website to help representatives share best practice, meet socially to discuss developments in occupational health and safety and generally support each other.

This was being launched for Workers' Memorial Day <http://thesafetynetwork.org>
Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

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Unions Say 'Don't Work with Killer Chemicals'

Union organisations are demanding an end to the lax safety procedures that mean millions of workers are being routinely and needlessly exposed to industrial quantities of deadly substances, with many thousands dying each year as a result. Workers are being advised against working with unfamiliar workplace substances, unless a full assessment of the risks has been undertaken and safe working practices are in place.

Marcello Malentacchi, General Secretary of

the International Metalworkers' Federation, said: "You wouldn't take a swig from an unmarked bottle, because it could clearly be corrosive or poison. In the same way we don't think workers should be required to work with – quite literally – industrial quantities of potentially toxic substances, unless the risks have been properly assessed and the safest sensible means of control have been implemented."

Speaking ahead of a 27 April World Health Organisation seminar on the prevention of occupational and environment cancer in Geneva, he said: "Employers are still attached to the use of cancer causing substances at work, when safer substances or work methods could eliminate this risk entirely. Commonsense measures could save many thousands of lives each year."

Anita Normark, General Secretary of the Building Workers' International (BWI), told the seminar a new global union "zero cancer" campaign would call on workplace regulators and employers to do more to end the worldwide epidemic of occupational cancer, which claims at least one life every 52 seconds.

"Bad, and often illegal, working conditions cause ill health that mean disaster for hundreds of thousands of families every year," said Normark. "The social invisibility of the impact of working conditions on our health creates a vicious circle where diseases are not recognised as occupational, so they are not recorded, notified, treated or compensated and, worst of all, they are not prevented."

Normark added: "Occupational cancer is the most common work-related cause of death, ahead of other work-related diseases and accidents, but it is not taken seriously by regulators or employers. Asbestos alone accounts for an estimated 100,000 deaths each year. While our global campaign to ban deadly asbestos is gaining momentum, much more needs to be done to prevent exposure to asbestos which is already present in millions of buildings and workplaces all over the world."

The unions say where non-cancer causing alternatives are available, they should be used. If this is not possible alternative processes and safe work methods should be employed.

A global "zero cancer" campaign aimed at tackling the number one workplace killer was launched today, one day prior to April 28 International Workers' Memorial Day.

A coalition of 11 global unions together representing over 300 million members in more than 150 countries has produced a new cancer prevention guide, which reveals that over 600,000 deaths a year – one death every 52 seconds – are caused by occupational cancer, making up almost one-third of all work-related deaths.

IMF General Secretary Marcello Malentacchi said: "This epidemic has to stop. Trade unions in hundreds of countries have joined the campaign. We'll be calling for widespread workplace mapping, inquiries and surveys, and

a big drive to get rid of the top killers, such as achieving a global ban on asbestos.”

Occupational Cancer/Zero Cancer: a union guide to prevention, available at www.imfmetal.org/cancer, provides information about workplace cancer risks and advice on practical steps workers and unions can take to make workplaces safer.

1. Occupational Cancer/Zero Cancer: a union guide to prevention is published in English, French, Spanish and Russian on the IMF website at www.imfmetal.org/cancer
2. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that occupational cancer causes over 600,000 deaths a year – one death every 52 seconds – making up almost one-third of all work-related deaths.
3. A World Health Organisation (WHO) study concluded 20-30 per cent of males and 5-20 per cent of females in the working-age population could have been exposed to an occupational lung cancer risk during their working lives.
4. The European Union's CAREX database of occupational exposures to carcinogens estimated that in the early 1990s 22-24 million workers in the then 15 EU member states were exposed to carcinogens classified as group 1 by the International Agency for Research on Cancer – those known to cause cancer in humans.
5. The zero cancer coalition includes the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Building Workers' International (BWI), Education International (EI), International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Union (ICEM), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation (ITGLWF), International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), Public Services International (PSI), UNI Global Union (UNI) and the International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF).
6. ILO's 1974 occupational cancer convention (C.139) has only been ratified by 35 countries worldwide. ILO's 1986 asbestos convention (C.162) is ratified by fewer countries still, with just 29 countries signed up.

Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

277 New IOSH Occupational Health Toolkit

IOSH, the organisation for safety professionals – safety officers to you and me – has produced a new, free, online occupational health toolkit. IOSH says this new resource 'brings together

information, guidance, factsheets, case studies, training materials, presentations and more to help you tackle occupational health problems.' It adds that the resource, aimed at safety officers and still under development, can be used 'to support what you do over the whole process – from learning the background to a health issue, through identifying and dealing with early symptoms, right to getting people back to work if they've been off ill.' Key areas covered are stress and musculoskeletal disorders. Information on inhalation and skin disorders is due to be added later this year. The resource targets safety officers and doesn't have information on worker involvement, but is still another useful tool for use by safety reps.

<http://www.ohtoolkit.co.uk/>

Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

278 A Conference on the Impact of Alcohol and Drugs in the Workplace, 19 June 2007

The Alcohol and Drug Services in Staffordshire (ADSIS) are running a one day conference at KEELE university Newcastle under Lyme, exploring the impact of alcohol and drugs in the workplace. There will be an Amicus speaker there, putting across the union view.

Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

279 'RoSPA' New Website – How Speeding, Using a Mobile Phone, or Drink Driving Effect a Car's Stopping Distance?

To coincide with Global Road Safety Week, RoSPA have launched a new website with a built in Stopping Distance Simulator to show you how factors such as these can increase stopping distances dramatically and how this can endanger pedestrians.

Approximately two-thirds of all crashes in which people are killed or injured happen on roads with a speed limit of 30mph or less. At 30mph, vehicles are travelling at 44 feet (about 3 car lengths) each second.

Run the Pedestrian Injury Simulator to see the impact of speed and various driving impairments, (Using a mobile phone, wet weather or Alcohol) have upon your thinking and braking distances.

There are links to fact sheets on the topics shown in the simulator, and help to explain why they effect the stopping distances in the simulator, and the pedestrian's risk of injury. You can find out more information by clicking on the icons.

Speed

Speeding can be fatal for both drivers and pedestrians. It increases both the chances of an accident occurring, and also the seriousness of the injuries following one. By following the link you can find out the facts about speeding, and some tips which may help you avoid creeping over the limit accidentally.

Mobile Phones

Using a mobile phone is distracting, it divides a drivers mental attention from the road meaning that drivers may miss road signs, warnings, and hazards. Using a mobile phone increases the time it takes a driver to react. This fact sheet talks about the dangers of using a phone and driving.

Drink-driving

Even one drink can effect a driver's judgement and co-ordination, and may even take a driver over the legal limit. This fact sheet gives information about the dangers of driving whilst impaired.

Wet Weather

When the roads are wet, the friction in between the car's tyres and the road surface is reduced. This can increase stopping distances and will do so dramatically when a vehicle's tyres have a shallow tread depth. This fact sheet gives advice and information about driving in the wet.

To visit the Stopping Distance Simulator go to: <http://www.stoppingdistances.org.uk/>

Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

280 Secretary of State Announces Review of Working Nation's Health

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Rt Hon John Hutton MP, announced on 27 March 2007 at the IOSH 07 Conference in Telford that he is commissioning, with Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP, Secretary of State for Health, a joint review of the health of Britain's working age population.

Mr Hutton said that he would like this to become an "annual report" to provide a real evidence base to help refine the approach the government takes to improving the health of the workforce. He also hopes that this new approach will help provide maximum value for the Health Work and Well Being Strategy.

Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

281 Workers' Memorial Day – HSE Chief Executive

On 30 April 2007, the Chief Executive of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Geoffrey Podger, planted a tree at Red Grave Court, in Liverpool in honour of Workers' Memorial Day which fell on 28 April.

According to the HSE, in 2005/06 there were 212 fatal injuries at work and a further 146,076 people were injured due to poor health and safety procedure in the workplace.

The slogan of Workers' Memorial Day is, "Remember the dead: fight for the living," and focuses on those who have lost their lives or been injured at work.

Speaking at the tree planting ceremony,

Geoffrey Podger pointed out that many accidents at work could be avoided by simple, low cost solutions.

In a similar vein, the Chair of the Health and Safety Commission (HSC), Bill Callaghan, said many of the 212 fatalities of last year were avoidable and he stressed the importance of all those in the health and safety system, such as within the HSC and HSE, employers, trade unions and professional bodies, working together in partnership.

Mr Podger said, "Injuries at work don't just affect the victim, but all those around them. It is our responsibility to ensure that all workers are given the protection they need and deserve to carry out their everyday duties and it is everyone's role to make sure this happens; trade unions, employees, regulators and the employers."

Dave Joyce

National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

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Record Temperatures Broken During April
Britain experienced its hottest April since record keeping began over 300 years ago.

Over the weekend, temperatures on Bournemouth beach reached 23°C while the south-west of England was even hotter with temperatures of 24.5°C. North Wales, which usually sees maximum temperatures of 16°C at this time of year, experienced temperatures of 20°C.

The Central England Temperature (CET) is the world's longest running temperature series and dates back to 1659.

April 2007 and the 12-month rolling period ending in April 2007 are set to become the warmest since the records began 348 years ago.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has been criticised in the past for offering no upper temperature limit with regard to work in hot weather.

Should the latest high temperatures indicate the start of another very hot summer, it is likely that there will be renewed calls for such a limit.

Dave Joyce

National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

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HSL Slips and Trips Study

The Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) has published a report examining the factors to be considered in conjunction with the Slips Assessment Tool (SAT).

The report points out that slips and trips are the most common cause of major injuries at work and they occur in all workplaces, with 95% of reportable major slips resulting in broken bones.

The HSL says there are many separate factors which contribute to the slip potential of a particular workplace including:

- the floor surface
- footwear worn by pedestrians

- the contamination present
- cleaning, maintenance and management regimes.

In the research report, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the HSL use two primary techniques to assess the slip resistance of floor surfaces – coefficient of friction (CoF) using a pendulum skid resistance tester, and Rz surface microroughness.

Microroughness meters are available which can easily measure the Rz parameter, and historically a good correlation has been found between Rz and wet pendulum values.

This information was the basis of the HSE's SAT, a risk assessment tool which uses Rz as an important factor in determining the slip risk presented by a floor surface.

In recent times, affordable and portable microroughness instruments have become available which can easily measure a much larger range of parameters on site.

The purpose of the research project was to study the relationships between discrete roughness parameters and their agreement with wet pendulum values to look for close correlations which may support Rz and pendulum values in determining the slip resistance of a surface.

RR549: An Examination of Novel Roughness Parameters to be Used in Conjunction with the HSE Slips Assessment Tool (SAT) can be accessed at:<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rpdf/rr549.pdf>

Dave Joyce

National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

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Findings of the HSE Workplace Transport Consultation

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published a summary of the findings of its public consultation, launched in June 2006, on transport in the workplace.

The focus of the consultation, which closed on 22 September 2006, was on the proposal by the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) to introduce a route map for workplace transport.

The HSE says the purpose of the route map is to provide easy access to information describing the basics of what employers need to do to manage their workplace transport operations safely.

The route map will also be designed to:

- direct the seeker to suggestions for practical improvements in the key areas
- provide a framework in which employers and workers can understand the role of the existing workplace transport-related regulations and guidance
- provide the basis for an easy system of reference.

The HSE says the intention was not to duplicate or replace good useful guidance but rather to provide clear links from the route map

to the existing guidance and only produce new guidance where important gaps are identified.

The initial findings of the consultation were that:

- 83% of those who responded were in favour of the approach suggested
- a small proportion thought the HSE was not going far enough and an equally small proportion thought the proposals were excessive
- the medical issues generated most concern with 56% of respondents saying that more information is required
- only 40% of respondents believed that workers understand their responsibilities
- the name "route map" was received less than favourably, with only 59% believing that it explains clearly what is meant.

The full summary document can be accessed at www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/routemap.pdf.

Dave Joyce

National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

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Voluntary Nanotechnology Controls Rejected by US Group

A group of US unions and civil society organisations have released a joint statement rejecting a proposed voluntary risk assessment approach for the control of health and safety and environmental risks associated with nanotechnology.

The statement has been signed by some 21 organisations, including several unions and the environment campaign groups, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, as well as other public interest, non-profit and labour organisations.

Specifically, the group jointly issued a public statement condemning efforts by DuPont Chemical Company and the US Environmental Defense (ED, formerly Environmental Defense Fund) to promote a voluntary risk assessment framework for nanotechnology.

According to the statement, DuPont and the US Environmental Defence intend to circulate a proposed framework, both in the US and abroad, for consideration by various relevant oversight organisations, including the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The strong worded statement by the unions and civil society groups said, "We reject outright the proposed voluntary framework as fundamentally flawed. We strongly object to any process in which broad public participation in government oversight of nanotech policy is usurped by industry and its allies."

The statement added, "The history of other voluntary regulation proposals is bleak; voluntary regulations have often been used to delay or weaken rigorous regulation and should be seen as a tactic to delay needed regulation and forestall public involvement."

The groups argue that nanotechnology's "rapid commercialization" requires "focused

environmental, health and safety research, meaningful and open discussion of broader societal impacts, and urgent oversight action".
Dave Joyce
National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

286 Asthma Awareness and World Asthma Day, 1 May 2007

Tuesday 1 May 2007 was World Asthma Day, an annual event intended to improve asthma awareness and care throughout the world.

To mark the event, Asthma UK published reports in England and Northern Ireland, highlighting the urgent need to improve levels of emergency asthma care.

In Wales and Northern Ireland Asthma UK staff, supporters and volunteers were out in force, distributing information packs about asthma. On 2 May Asthma UK Scotland co-chaired the country's first major asthma conference looking at all aspects of the condition. The campaign message:

England: The Asthma Divide

Asthma UK has produced a report, entitled 'The Asthma Divide – inequalities in asthma care for people with asthma in England', that reveals shocking disparities in asthma control, arising from inadequate service provision in certain areas.

The report reveals that people in north-west England are 65% more likely to need emergency hospital treatment for asthma than those in the east of England. The worst performing Primary Care Trust (PCT) is Heart of Birmingham Teaching, which has an admission rate of 114% above average. The best performing PCT is Uttlesford, which has an admission rate of 64% below average.

Northern Ireland: The State of Play

Asthma UK has produced a report, entitled 'The State of Play – asthma emergency care in Northern Ireland', that reveals the devastating impact that the condition continues to have on people's lives.

In addition, the charity distributed free information about asthma in major shopping centres throughout Northern Ireland.

Scotland

Asthma UK's Executive Director of Research and Policy, Jenny Versnel, addressed the Asthma and Respiratory Disease Conference at Glasgow University on 2 May.

Wales

Asthma UK staff, supporters and volunteers were out in force in central Cardiff, distributing bilingual information packs about asthma. Members of the public also had the opportunity to talk to an asthma nurse.

Influencing Government and Policy

Asthma UK held high profile Parliamentary receptions in Westminster and Northern Ireland

where both reports will be launched.

At Westminster, MPs were given the opportunity to sign a pledge to support Asthma UK's campaign to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions. Dr Howard Stoate MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Asthma, hosted the event with speeches from Ivan Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care Services in the Department of Health, Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP, Chair of the Health Select Committee, Donna Covey, Chief Executive Asthma UK and Vicki Chester-Walsh, who has asthma.

Asthma UK Northern Ireland also launched its report, 'The State of Play – asthma emergency care in Northern Ireland' at a lunchtime reception at Stormont. David Ford MLA (Alliance) hosted this event, which was addressed by Michael Gimpsey MLA (UUP), Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety designate, political party health spokesperson, a GP Specialist in Asthma and person with asthma who spoke about his experiences.

Resources for Healthcare Professionals

Asthma UK has produced a downloadable Emergency Asthma Care Pack, a new resource to assist healthcare professionals who work in settings where they are likely to encounter people having an asthma attack and ensure a better level of service for people with asthma.

Information for People with Asthma

Asthma UK's health information materials for people with asthma have been developed by healthcare professionals and tested by people with asthma. They provide people with asthma and their carers with health information, support and advice and can be ordered online. Among the materials available are:

- Asthma Attack Card – A credit card sized card designed to inform people with asthma and those around them about what to do during an asthma attack. The card is recommended for everyone with asthma.
- Be In Control Pack – A range of resources for people with asthma, including a personal asthma action plan, a peak flow diary, information on asthma reviews and an asthma medicine card.

To find out more about reports mentioned above, Asthma UK's work or order information, call our Supporter and Information Team on **020 7786 5000** or email info@asthma.org.uk

Promotional materials are also being made available to healthcare professionals, which can be used in surgeries and other healthcare settings to publicise World Asthma Day. To order these resources call our Supporter and Information Team on **020 7786 5000** or email info@asthma.org.uk

Information from Asthma (UK) is available at:

http://www.asthma.org.uk/how_we_help/world_asthma_day/index.html

Dave Joyce

National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

287 Scottish Launch of FACK

The campaign group, Families Against Corporate Killers (FACK), held its Scottish launch on 17 April during the recent annual conference of the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) in Glasgow.

FACK was launched in June 2006 by relatives of people killed as a result of corporate failures.

The emphasis on FACK is broader than the workplace alone. In a statement the campaign group said it recognises that "not all deaths occurring as a result of corporate failure occur in the workplace".

Campaign member, Dorothy Wright, said, "FACK has united bereaved relatives in campaigning for changes in the law and the horrendous treatment meted out to grieving relatives. We hope that Scottish families will swell our numbers to become an army to lobby at Edinburgh and our voice become so loud that MSPs will have to listen, and to act."

STUC General Secretary, Grahame Smith, added, "In Scotland far too many workers and citizens lose their lives in accident that need not have the catastrophic circumstances they do. However, not one individual company or director in Scotland has been convicted of corporate homicide, an appalling indictment on our Scottish justice system, that is not much better in England and Wales."

The STUC said it would support FACK in its campaign and work with them to lobby the Scottish Parliament to seek improvement in the way that the system deals with prosecutions.

The FACK website can be accessed at www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/fack

Dave Joyce

National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

288 York Containers Brake Bar Fault & Modifications (Progress Report as at 4 May 2007)

Further to LTBs 783/06, 845/06, 876/06, 50/07, BOB No. 7/07 paragraph 98, BOB No. 8/07 paragraph 106 and BOB No. 13/07 Paragraphs 196, dated 06 April 2007, branches will be aware that Royal Mail identified a manufacturing fault with the new styled York Container brake bar handle.

The affected Yorks are easily identified as those with the yellow oval shaped plastic brake handle mounted into grey plastic end pieces and a simple brake bar cover fixing modification kit has been produced to prevent the brakes failing.

The union has been assured by Royal Mail that the chances of brake failure occurring are very slight with only one incident reported so far and it is safe to continue using the unmodified Yorks whilst the modifications are

being completed.

100,000 brake bar cover fixing kits have been produced and distributed for fitted locally via a simple process in which a simple green split tube or 'brake bar cover' is 'snapped on' which prevents the components separating and in turn prevents brake failure.

Area Safety Reps are asked to continue carrying out spot checks of York Containers and all staff are being advised through briefings to ensure that before using an unmodified York, a visual check should be made of the York Container brake handle to make sure that all of the grey fittings are correctly seated. If not, or if in doubt, the York Container concerned should be brought to the attention of the manager and if appropriate the York must be removed from service until modified.

We are informed that as of 4 May, 77,500 York Containers have been modified from a total requiring modification of 84,000. The modification programme is continuing and Royal Mail have now obtained sufficient supplies to distribute to remaining offices with outstanding containers to be modified.

Would Area Safety Reps please check to ensure that the modifications are being carried out in their offices and where necessary please make representations to accelerate the completion of the modifications.

The following offices have completed their allocated fittings:

AB, B, BL, BS, CB, CH, CR, CT, CV, DA, DE, DL, DN, EH, EX, Gatwick, Greenford, HP, HWDC, IP, IV, JUB, LE, LON C, LON E, LON W, ME, MK, NDC, NE, NG, NHCDC, NN, OL, OX, PL, PR, RM, S, SA, SE, WBC, SG, SN, SO, SS, SWDC, TN, TS, WD, WR, YDC & YO.

The following offices have requested further supplies of Brake Bar Mods and are being supplied:

CA, G, LS & PE

The following offices have been requested to report progress to **Ian McDonnell** The MHE Development Manager (Tel: **07711 892533**) ASAP:

BD, BH, BT, CA, CF, CM, Dover, Farnborough, G, GL, HU, L, LS, M, NR, NWDC, PE, PO, PRDC, RG, SDC, SK, SY, WV

Yorks needing to be modified	84,000 app
Modification kits delivered	94,000
Yorks reported as modified	77,500

Incomplete Offices based as reported by **Ian McDonnell** Royal Mail MHE Development Manager (Tel: **07711 892533**):

Office	Allocated	Modified	Modified
Corby	13,160	6460	49%
BD	1500	1100	73%
BH	500	450	90%

BT	2000	1850	93%
CA	1500	1000	67%
CF	500	339	68%
CM	1500	1070	71%
DOV	500	250	50%
FB	500	200	40%
G	4000	3000	75%
GL	500	420	84%
HU	1000	700	70%
L	500	250	50%
LON S	1500	1250	83%
LS	2500	1500	60%
M	1000	600	60%
NR	500	415	83%
NWDC	500	300	60%
PE	4000	3000	75%
PO	500	160	32%
PRDC	3500	2000	57%
RG	1000	500	50%
SDC	2000	1500	75%
SY	1000	850	85%
WV	1000	750	75%

All enquiries concerning the above should be addressed to **Dave Joyce** National Health, Safety & Environment Officer quoting ref: **C25**.

TELECOMS

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Virgin Media – Project Radio: TUPE Transfer of Ex-NTL Core Network Infrastructure

There was, over two years ago, a separation contract enacted on the ex-NTL Core Network Infrastructure. The contract for the maintenance services was carried out by Arqiva.

For commercial reasons, Virgin Media has decided to bring this function back in-house, with the overall affect of the national core infrastructure being maintained end to end by Virgin Media core network teams.

Although not part of the bargaining unit, the company acceded to a request for the union to be part of the TUPE consultative process in an advisory capacity which the company has agreed.

There are potentially 30 Arqiva employees affected by the transfer and 27 Virgin Media engineers. Arqiva employees have been notified that they will transfer with their current terms and conditions of employment.

However, they have been given the option of not transferring and at the time of discussions it is very unclear as to how many engineers will decide to transfer. This unknown factor clouds management thinking on the future resourcing requirements, to the point that third party resourcing may be required. Management have given a commitment that such arrangements would be short term and would only be deployed in the event that Arqiva employees do not transfer.

As the resource availability is unknown it also raises questions on working areas. This is an issue to be finalised when it is known which

Arqiva employees are accepting the offer to transfer.

As it is envisaged that current members will work on the new platforms, the company has committed budget for training all Virgin Media core engineers. Training will be a mixture of in-house and vendor and in response to a request from the union, will give consideration to producing a single source document which will be used for in-house training.

Brian Healy
Assistant Secretary

EVENTS BULLETIN

October 2006 – June 2007: London Socialist Film Co-op Film Season.

Screenings held on second Sunday of the month from October to June 10.30 for 11 am. Screenings showing at Renoir Cinema, Brunswick Square, London WC1. Nearest tube Russell Square. Tickets cost £7.00, concessions £5.00. Discount to annual members £1.00. Tickets on sale from 10.30 am on day of screening. To book in advance tel **020 7837 1177** (12 noon to 8.00 pm) or go to **www.curzoncinemas.com** or visit the Box Office (12 noon to 8 pm).

Monday 21st May 2007: Eastern Regional Retired Members' Committee Meeting.

To be held in Community, Swinton House, 324 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DD at 11am. For more information contact **Nobby Clark** on **07713 155575**.

Tuesday 22 May 2007: First 100 Days: Constitutional reform – Labour's Unfinished Business? 18:00 – 19:30

– Committee Room 11, House of Commons. Confirmed speaker: Jack Straw. Devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Human Rights Act and reform of the House of Lords are seen by some as New Labour's proudest achievements. But could they have gone further? Debate with Rt Hon Jack Straw MP, Leader of the House of Commons; Jonathan Freedland, The Guardian; Chris Leslie, Progress Vice Chair and Director of the New Local Government Network; Stephen Twigg (chair); and more speakers TBC. For more information contact **Tom Brooks Pollock** on **0203 008 8180** email: **tom@progressives.org.uk**

Saturday 2 June 2007: SERTUC

International Conference. Southern and Eastern Region TUC invite you to attend a free international conference at Congress House, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LS. Lunch (Middle Eastern food) will be available at £5-£6. This event brings together high profile speakers from the international trade union movement, NGOs, academia and politics to discuss and debate a range of international issues and developments. Speakers include: Tony Benn, Frances O'Grady, Deputy General

Secretary TUC, Barry Camfield, Assistant General Secretary TGWU, Keith Sonnet, Deputy General Secretary UNISON, John Henny QC, Institute of Employment Rights and many more. For more information contact **Darren Lewis, 020 7467 1220.**

Monday 4 June 2007: On Target?

Environment Policy and the Climate Change Bill. To be held at Congress House, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LS. 09:30 to 15:30. A TUC one-day conference with David Miliband, Secretary of State for the Environment. With a sharpening political debate emerging, the TUC is organising a one-day conference, opened by David Miliband, to explore what the Bill means, how it will work, and what are the practical implications of low carbon economy for industry, employment, skills and transport. Download a booking form from <http://www.tuc.org.uk/extras/ontarget.pdf>

Saturday 9 June 2007: ENOUGH! National Rally and Demonstration.

Say enough to 40 years of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories. The ENOUGH! coalition is organising a major national demonstration and rally to take place in London, meeting at Lincoln's Inn Fields at 1.30pm for the march to Trafalgar Square. The international day of action to mark the 40th anniversary under the slogan: "The World Says No to Israeli Occupation". This is the primary international event of the year in support of the Palestinian people, and we are hoping to have tens of thousands of people at the rally to send a strong message both to the Israeli government and to No 10 Downing Street. For more information visit www.enoughoccupation.org

Tuesday 19th June 2007: The RMT Annual Garden Party.

Takes place again this year at Maritime House, Clapham, London commencing at 7.00 p.m. Tickets are £17 each and include a free bar, buffet and music. Anyone wishing to attend this event should contact RMT direct to purchase tickets on **020 7387 4771** or [email info@rmt.org.uk](mailto:info@rmt.org.uk)

Monday 25th June 2007: The Future of UK Postal Services.

To be held at Le Méridien Piccadilly, London. Staying ahead of the competition: liberalisation, modernisation, innovation. Now in its sixth year, this conference is firmly established as one of the leading events in the postal calendar. And

with Royal Mail's modernisation programme, the new operators' increasing market share, the expansion of end-to-end, and Postcomm's Strategy Review on the agenda, this conference comes at a crucial stage in the development of the market. This event will bring together the leading players in the industry to debate these issues and determine the future of the UK postal services industry. Speakers include Jim Fitzpatrick MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment Relations and Postal Services, DTI, Lorna Clarkson Commercial Pricing Director, Royal Mail, Nick Wells Chief Executive Officer, TNT Post, Paul Tolhurst Network Director RM Letters, Royal Mail and more. For more information contact **Marketforce Communications** on **+44(0)20 7608 0541** or visit www.marketforce.eu.com/ukpost

Saturday 30 June 2007: PCS/Words Short Story Competition 2007(closing date).

For the 3rd year PCS/WORDS Magazine is running a short story competition open to members of all UK trade unions. Prizes are: 1st £300, 2nd £200 and 3rd £100. All winning stories and commended entries will be published in WORDS Magazine and in an online anthology. Entry forms/guidelines are available on the WORDS website www.wordsmag.com (on the trade union pages) and you can download a poster from the PCS website – www.pcs.org.uk/learning

Friday 13th – Sunday 15th July 2007: Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival.

On February 24th, 1834, six farm labourers from the Dorset village of Tolpuddle were arrested on a charge of taking part in an 'illegal oath' ceremony. In the eyes of their masters, however, the real offence was that they had dared to form a trade union to defend their livelihood. For this they were sentenced to seven years' transportation to the penal colonies of Australia. The sentences provoked an immense outcry, leading to the first great mass trade union protest. The campaign won free pardons and the Martyrs' return to England. A historic episode in the struggle for trade unionists' rights in Great Britain. For more information visit www.tuc.org.uk/tolpuddle

Sunday 15 July 2007: Rise: London United 2007.

Clapham Common, London SW4 (subject to licence). 12pm – 8:30pm. Free event. The Mayor of London Ken Livingstone is backing Europe's largest anti-racist festival.

The event is backed by the Trades Union Congress, National Assembly Against Racism and diverse community organisations. Rise: London United 2007 will feature a wide range of music, performance and other activities. Past performers include Graham Coxon, De La Soul, Common, Buzzcocks, Roy Ayers, Sway and the Wailers, with stages featuring African, Asian and Cuban music, Dub and hip hop DJs, comedy acts and the annual Poetry Slam organised in conjunction with the Poetry Society. There will also be a children's play area, food and drink, exhibitions and arts and crafts. The Mayor said the venue for this year's event had extra significance in 2007 – the bicentenary year of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade: 'This year's Rise: London United is taking place in Clapham, which has strong historical links to the campaigners who helped bring in the legislation, which brought to an end the transatlantic slave trade in Britain'. More details will be announced shortly. Public information: www.risefestival.org or **020 7983 6554.**

Wednesday 18th July 2007: National Pensioners Convention – Eastern Region Meeting.

Will be held at Moreton Community Centre, Symonds Road, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk at 1pm. For more information contact **Nobby Clark** Eastern Region Retired Members Secretary on **07713 155575.**

Monday 8th October 2007: Eastern Regional Retired Members' Committee Meeting.

To be held in Community, Swinton House, 324 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8D at 11am. For more information contact **Nobby Clark** Eastern Region Retired Members Secretary on **07713 155575.**

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If you have anything for the events bulletin page please send your contribution to:

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Wimbledon SW19 1RX
Tel: **020 8971 7497**
Email: mmurray@cwu.org

Details must arrive nine days before publication and must include a contact phone number, brief summary of the event, email and website address. Listings are free, but inclusion is not guaranteed.