

No 692/2018

12th December 2018

RM/CWU National Terms of Reference - Uniform Trial New Polo Shirt Maternity Top

Dear Colleagues,

As part of our ongoing talks with Royal Mail in relation to general uniform matters, the Outdoor Department has agreed a trial of a new polo shirt maternity top.

This trial has resulted after a number of months of discussions with the company on the need to improve the current maternity wear range, which also involved the establishment of a small working group including CWU Representatives to consider viable options on a new maternity top.

The new maternity top identified by the working group for trial is a new polo shirt and is part of a range of maternity wear items developed by the National Childbirth Association and Dimensions (Royal Mail's uniform supplier). The new maternity top is based on a new lighter fabric of 200gsm (as opposed to the current 250gsm) and is the same fabric as that being trialled with the new lighter weight polo shirt (as set out in LTB 691/18).

As set out in the attached Terms of Reference, the trial will operate on the basis of applications for maternity wear and will be limited in numbers and for a 5 week period, with a joint review in February. The trial period for the new polo shirt maternity top is shorter than the normal 3 months due to the required lead time needed with the supplier to move the uniform item from concept to deployment. The aim is to have the new polo shirt maternity top available by August 2019, subject to trial feedback.

Those who volunteer to participate in the trial will be issued 2 of the new polo shirt maternity tops but will still retain their full maternity wear allocation.

The Department would like to place on record our thanks to Katie Dunning, CWU ASR, West London Postal Branch, Karen Regan, CWU Women's Officer, Warrington Mail Centre Branch and Vicki Turner, member of the CWU Women's Advisory Committee who formed part of the working group.

It is hoped that the trial of a new Polo Shirt Maternity Top is welcomed by Branches and (subject to the trial outputs) then made available for general uniform order in midsummer of next year.

Any queries to the content of the above, please contact the Outdoor Department, reference: 500, email address: outdoorsecretary@cwu.org.



Mark Baulch
Assistant Secretary