

No. 229/2020

29<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## **TO: ALL BRANCHES WITH ROYAL MAIL GROUP MEMBERS**

Dear Colleagues,

### **Royal Mail Fleet Deferment of Vehicle Maintenance Programme and Introduction of Temporary Measures**

Branches may be aware at the outbreak of Coronavirus Covid-19, the Driver Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) issued temporary adjustments to the routine schedule of planned vehicle maintenance by Fleet Operators. This resulted in deferment of all Service and Inspections on Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) for a period of 13 weeks. So whilst there is no change in the maintenance policy for LCVs, Fleet have taken the decision to move inspections and servicing from the next date due to 13 weeks in the future. This decision came into effect from Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Branches will also be aware the Driver Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) further announced due to the unfolding COVID-19 situation all cars, vans and motorcycles (class 4) due their MOT from the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 will have their MOT extended by 6 months. Vehicles however must be kept in a roadworthy condition and drivers are responsible and can be prosecuted if they drive an unsafe vehicle.

Since this date the unprecedented rate of absence, coupled with the removal of van share, the department have become increasingly concerned at the ability to ensure our vehicles and therefore our drivers are protected against the roadworthiness of vehicles.

In responding to the various Government changes and ways of working, we have agreed to expand upon our current Fleet Support Service which provides a mobile Technician on a planned 'milk round' with each customer in the locality. The visiting Technician will carry out all minor repairs in these locations to ensure the vehicles are safe and legally compliant, which includes replacement of worn or faulty tyres. Where vehicles are used by the visiting Technician which do not comply with the current Fleet Support Vehicle (FSV) vehicle identification, then the substitute panel van will utilise an Auto Rotating Beacon (ARB) and park defensively whilst at customer sites and continue to report immediately to the site Person In Charge (PIC), sign the attendance register and observe all site safety rules.

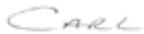
The visiting Technician will continue to observe social distancing measures and carry a supply of safety equipment including cleaning disinfectant and sanitising products, nitrile and polyco gloves as well as the relevant face mask (FFP1 and FFP3) with the overriding focus to keep everyone safe. Work will only be undertaken at sites which have already been risk assessed, recognising the site categorisation (Option 1 to 4) and the work tasks which can and more specifically cannot be completed at these sites.

It is important to note this service will not replace or negate the need for Drivers Daily, Duty or Weekly Checks and Drivers are strongly encouraged to diligently continue with these checks. Drivers should complete a PMT1 Fault Report for any vehicle they consider non-roadworthy and ensure the vehicle is immediately taken out of service.

This agreement is a temporary solution only and will be reviewed one month from deployment to ensure it addresses the current concerns we face around temporary ways of working.

All enquiries regarding the content of this LTB should be addressed to the **PTCS** Department, quoting reference 404. Email address: **khay@cwu.org**.

Yours Sincerely,



Carl Maden  
**Assistant Secretary (Acting)**