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**To: All Branches**

Dear Colleagues,

**Dog Attacks on Royal Mail Postal Workers 'remain unacceptably high' - Day One Dog Awareness Week 2020 – Royal Mail Press Release:**

Today is the first day of Royal Mail/CWU Dog Awareness Week 2020 and Royal Mail have issued a press release along with the 2019/20 dog attack figures and helpful top-tips for dog owners to prevent dog attacks on postal workers in the UK.

The Royal Mail press release sets out the fact that over 47 Postal workers in the UK are attacked by dogs each week and some lead to a permanent and disabling injury. In the past year alone just under 2,500 dog attacks have taken place on postmen and women and dog attacks remain unacceptably high despite the joint RM/CWU dog awareness campaigns that have been running for eight years.

**Statistics**

78% of dog attacks happen at the front door. There has been a 7% increase in attacks across the UK over the last 2 years. Some areas saw huge increases this year – for example - Glasgow 81% increase this year with 73 attacks over the last two years in total, Chelmsford 122% increase and 48 attacks over the last two years, Cardiff 65% increase with 61 attacks over the last two years, South East London 107% increase with 46 attacks over the last two years to pick out just a few.

Coronavirus has understandably caused a rise in postal parcel deliveries. This is why we need to take whatever steps needed to keep our postmen and women members approaching homes safe and protected. Everyone needs to understand that even friendly dogs might not be appreciated by busy, hard-working postal workers. Royal Mail and the Union state that despite the evidence of hefty fines issued for dog attacks, more needs to be done by the Police and courts to clamp down on bad ownership, using the full force of the law to hold these people to account for the devastating, life changing injuries they cause to postmen and women, which continues to be all too familiar.

The Postcode by Postcode Dog Attack Statistics produced by Royal Mail will be issued under cover of a separate LTB.

**Extract From The Press Release:**

**Dave Joyce, CWU National Health, Safety and Environment Officer,** *"As our members deliver more parcels, packets, express, tracked and signed-for deliveries, as a result of booming internet sales during the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown, they still face dog hazards. Parcel traffic has increased 50% and postmen and women continue to collect and deliver thousands of Covid-19 test kits to/from the public and testing labs daily as part of our fantastic contribution to the nation's safety and wellbeing. We need the public to fully appreciate the essential 'lifeline' service postal workers provide and for dog owners to think about the safety of postal workers in return."*

### **Top tips for dog owners**

Here are some top tips the Union and Royal Mail are promoting to dog owners to help postman or woman deliver the post in safety:

- Ensure your dog is out of the way before the postman or woman arrives. Place your pet in a secure room or the back garden.
- If you have a back garden, please close off the access, in case your dog could get round to the front when the postman or woman calls.
- Dog attacks can happen when you've opened the door to collect a parcel. Please keep your dog in another room before answering the door.
- Make sure children don't open the door, as dogs can push by them and attack.
- Give your dog some food or a toy to occupy them while your mail is being delivered.
- Wait 10 minutes after your mail has arrived before you let your pet back out. Keep everything as calm and low-key as possible.
- If your dog likes to attack your letter box as the mail comes through – fit a wire letterbox cage/receptacle. It will protect your post, and your postman or woman's fingers.
- If it's not practical for you to keep your dog away from a postman or woman delivering your mail, please consider fitting a secure mailbox on the edge of your property.
- Please ensure your dog is microchipped, wearing a collar and tag and that your contact details on the tag and microchip are up to date. These are both legal requirements for dog owners and failure to comply can result in a heavy fine.

### **See Attached Copy of the Royal Mail Dog Awareness Week Press Release**

Yours sincerely



**Dave Joyce**  
**National Health, Safety & Environment Officer**