

No. 460/2019

29th July 2019

To : All Branches

Dear Colleagues

**Re : New Service to Members - Legal Services Department
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Data Breach and Cybercrime : Compensation Claims**

Data breach and cybercrime are rapidly becoming a daily event within both our members' place of employment and the wider business environment.

There have been numerous reports in the media detailing serious Data Breaches by major companies with the general public receiving nothing more than a polite apology.

It is now possible to make a claim for compensation in such circumstances.

The Legal Services Department has already dealt with a number of enquiries from members affected by breaches of GDPR.

A data breach can result in financial and identity theft, either of which can be devastating. With enough information, cyber criminals can apply for credit in your name, set up fraudulent bank accounts and access your existing accounts. The impact of data breach goes much further than financial losses with many people going on to suffer stress, anxiety and distress.

In order to protect Union members, we have reached agreement with Data Breach and Cybercrime Security Specialist, Hayes Connor Solicitors, who will provide a **free** initial assessment service, fully compliant with Information Commissioners Office (ICO) guidelines.

Hayes Connor Solicitors are currently involved in running compensation claims against Ticketmaster, Equifax, Marriott International, Team Sport, Dixons, Carphone Warehouse and British Airways.

If, after the initial assessment our Solicitors feel there is a potential claim, they will continue with the claim process **at no cost to the member**. In the event the case is brought to a successful conclusion then any compensation obtained and legal costs incurred will be claimed from the defendant. **Members will receive 100% of any compensation awarded.**

Any member wishing to make a claim should contact the Legal Services Department, who will submit the claim on behalf of the member, via a secure portal, which will go direct to Hayes Connor Solicitors, who will then contact the member direct. This service is also available to family members.

If you have any queries regarding the above please contact Tony Rupa, Head of Legal Services, Communication Workers Union, 150 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1RX. Telephone 0208 971 7444 or via email trupa@cwu.org

Yours sincerely
Tony Rupa
Head of Legal Services