



AGENDA

(VIRTUAL)

RETIRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE
TUESDAY 25TH JANUARY 2022

Message from the General Secretary

Dear Colleague,

Happy New Year to all our retired members and representatives.

2022 is the year where we can seriously start the process of building a post Covid future for our members and their families.

This has to be all about strategies and actions that address the structural imbalance of power and wealth in the world of work, in how the economy operates and in the divisions that permeate society.

Although this imbalance of power and wealth has been decades in the making, Covid has highlighted these issues more than ever and as the world continues to grapple with the health, social and economic outcomes of the pandemic, there is a growing mood amongst people on the need for real change.

I believe that trade unions must lead the way in building support for radical change and I want our retired members and representatives to play an important role in this work.

In 2022 you will see the CWU move forward on our Building Collectivism strategy and the New Deal for Workers campaign. These initiatives are fundamental to the future of our union and the wider movement and when I address your Conference I will elaborate on how you can become more involved in delivering this crucial agenda. These initiatives embrace the call for a new social settlement in the UK and will provide platforms to link up crucial campaigning on social care, saving the NHS, the triple lock and the WASPI women.

We have a wealth of great experience and knowledge in our union and the changes we introduced to the NEC were designed to harness that experience and knowledge in a more structured way, whilst giving you a greater voice in key union campaigns, as well as the work we do to support our retired members. In the coming year, we will look at how our Regional Retired Members' structures link into the NEC to further strengthen the direction we have taken.

Additionally, we must set ourselves a clear target to retain more members of the union who retire from work. This will require some fresh thinking and new initiatives and we really do welcome your views and ideas to deliver on this objective. In this regard, we look forward to the report the Committee has been working on, which should be finalised by our Annual Conference.

In closing, I know we have lost some great comrades since our last Retired Members' Conference, including our previous NEC representative Brian Lee. We will find time at the Conference to remember all of these colleagues and the work that they have done on behalf of our members and the union.

Finally, I wish all delegates a good Conference – let's work together and make 2022 the year that we reassert trade unionism across the UK.

Dave Ward
General Secretary

Message from the Senior Deputy General Secretary

Dear Colleagues,

It is great news that we are able to extend a warm welcome to all those engaging with our Retired Members Conference for 2022. As a result of the circumstances being experienced throughout wider society it has been necessary to organise this conference as a virtual event.

It is regrettable that we are not able to meet physically and it is to be hoped that this time next year we can indeed meet up again in person.

That though is for the future and the task in hand is to debate and vote on the motions submitted to this conference.

Elderly people face an increasingly difficult future. The pressures upon the NHS brought about by the Covid19 pandemic have only served to identify the weakness within the NHS as a result of many years of under investment from this austerity obsessed Government.

Whilst it is natural to live in hope that the future will be better the pledges made by this particular Govt when elected in December 2019 about "levelling up" have been shown to be the lies many of us suspected they would be.

We have had to witness a Government that urged us all to clap for the NHS underpay nurses whilst simultaneously beginning the process of accelerating the privatisation of the NHS. We must resist the narrative that somebody else needs to be given control over the NHS to "sort out the mess". We need to be clear, the NHS hasn't failed, the Government has failed the NHS.

A number of the motions before this conference recognise the issues we face and set out positions that can be adopted to halt these attacks and reverse the decline.

As I write this address news is breaking that the Government intends to end free prescriptions for over 60's. We need to understand that these attacks will not end unless and until the Labour and trade union movement works together to end them.

This will require all of us, retired and in work members to come together and engage with our communities to let them know that there is an alternative. That it doesn't have to be this way.

Only by coming together across our communities will we be able to develop a society that looks after everyone and doesn't push more and more people into poverty through higher fuel bills, increasing food costs, prescription charges and whatever else the business class and their representatives in Government have lined up for us.

We can begin a position of changing the narrative around these issues by carrying some of the motions that will be before us at this conference.

Let's take up that challenge and begin the project that will reverse the damage being inflicted upon this country by the most deceitful and corrupt Government any of us has ever lived under.

A message I've been consistent in putting out is that our future is up grabs, the type of society you all fought to build as trade unionists over a long number years is being dismantled before our eyes. It's time to leave our differences aside, a time for retired members to take up the fight and lead the way in making a fairer society for all and to fight for dignity and respect in our older years.

Have a good conference

Tony Kearns
Senior Deputy General Secretary

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Welcome From the General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Welcome to the Virtual CWU Retired Members Conference of 2022 on behalf of the General Conference Standing Orders Committee.

This year we have again used the same criteria for motions that will be used for General Conference 2022 and, as such, the Standing Orders are as close as possible to those which will be in place for that Conference.

We have, recognised an issue with Emergency motions being submitted at times where we have no facilities to deal with such motions. To rectify this issue the submission of Emergency motions will close at Midnight on 19th January as reflected in the standing orders.

The Standing Orders Committee will be in attendance during the virtual Conference should any Delegate have any question over procedure, and to conduct the Ballot(s) for motions to go forward to General Conference as well as the delegates to represent the Retired Members at General Conference 2022. Further information will be given at the start of the conference as well as prior to the commencement of the ballots.

May you all enjoy a successful Conference.

Joyce Stevenson and Tony Sneddon
General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Retired Members' Conference 2022 Standing Orders

1. The sessions of the Virtual Retired Members Conference shall commence in accordance with the timetable.

2. TIMETABLE

- a 10.30 Chairperson's Opening Remarks
10.35 General Secretary's Address
10.55 Adoption of Virtual Retired Members Conference Standing Orders Committee Report (including appeals/reference backs)
11.05 Section II – Motions 1-7
12.20 Ballot to represent Retired Members at General Conference 2022
12.30 Conference adjourns
13.00 Section II – Motions 1-7 Continued
13.30 Ballot
13.40 Tony Kearns, Senior Deputy General Secretary
13.55 Chairperson's Closing Remarks
14.00 Conference Closes
- b Conference is limited to two-hour sessions....
- c A motion that has been called for debate by the Chairperson before the end of a session is reached, shall be moved, seconded, debated and decided upon, subject to Standing Order 3n. **No subsequent proposals for the variation of the timetable to compensate for time lost by this procedure shall be admissible.**

3. PROCEDURE IN DEBATE

Any speaker wishing to enter into the debate MUST use the 'Raised Hand' Function on the ZOOM platform which will alert the Chairperson and wait until they are called in to speak.

- a Every member of the Conference must remain in mute, except the one who may be addressing the Conference and, should the Chairperson intervene, no-one else shall continue speaking nor shall anyone else speak until called on to do so by the Chairperson.

SPEAKERS

- b A delegate when addressing the Conference shall address the Chairperson. If two or more persons desire to speak at the same time the Chairperson shall decide to whom priority will be given. No person shall be allowed to speak twice on the same question, except the mover's right of reply under Standing Order 3i.
- c All speeches shall be confined to the subject under discussion.
- d Delegates may only refer to documents which have a bearing on the subject under discussion.
- e (i) Motions standing in the name of a Branch must be moved by a delegate from that Branch.
(ii) Motions standing in the name of a Regional Committee must be moved by a delegate from that body.
(iii) Motions must be seconded or else they shall be deemed to have fallen.
(iv) Motions may be deemed moved formally under Standing Order 9a.

- f A motion may be seconded formally or by a speaker making a seconding speech.
- g All sponsors of a composite motion will be responsible for agreeing the allocation of moving and seconding speakers from amongst those named within the composite motion, notwithstanding the terms of Standing Order 3e(i) and (ii).
- h The mover of a motion shall be allowed to speak for not more than 3 minutes and any other speaker (including the mover exercising the right of reply) for not more than 3 minutes. **In exceptional circumstances a speaker may request special permission of the Chairperson to speak for a longer period, if agreed, it shall not exceed a further 2 minutes.**
- i The moving speaker shall have the right of reply to the debate, only if there has been opposition and shall not introduce any fresh matter but shall be limited to answering the debate.
- j The National Retired Members Committee (NRMC) shall be allowed one speaker in debate on all motions except those standing in their name. With the exception of Branches and Regional Committees moving and seconding a motion (under SO3e), Branches and Regional Committees, are entitled to one speaker only in each debate.
- k The National Retired Members Committee shall only be allowed one speaker in debate on all other motions not standing in the name of the National Retired Members Committee.
- l No motion shall be spoken upon except by the mover, until it has been seconded. The mover of a motion who opts not to make a moving speech shall lose the right of addressing Conference (except where SO9a applies) but shall still have the right of reply (SO3i) applies. The seconder of a motion who opts not to make a seconding speech shall not lose the right of addressing Conference.

ENDING DEBATE

- m Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That the motion be now put" (following the process as detailed in SO3p) on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this motion to the vote. In the event of it being carried by a simple majority of Conference (subject to SO4), Conference shall proceed to vote on the question itself, subject to SO3j and the right of reply as stated in SO3i being exercised.
- n Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That Conference proceeds to next business" (following the process as detailed in SO3p) on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this proposal to the vote (subject to SO4b). In the event of it being carried Conference shall at once proceed to the next item on its agenda.

WITHDRAWAL

- o Any motion or composite motion may be withdrawn from the Agenda prior to midnight **Wednesday 19th January 2022** to the Standing Orders Committee via conferences@cwu.org.

Following that time, sponsor(s) can only withdraw a motion or composite by notifying the SOC via conferences@cwu.org where upon conference will be advised on the moving of standing orders of any such withdrawal, Once conference commences, a motion can only be withdrawn when it is called before conference.

POINT OF ORDER

- p **POINT OF ORDER**
Delegates MUST indicate through the 'Chat' function on the ZOOM platform if they wish to raise a Point of Order.
- Any person wishing to question the proceedings of Conference may raise a "point of order", and when called shall state the procedural point in exact terms, whereupon the Chairperson shall immediately give a ruling or refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee for a decision. Any person raising points of order must seek to prove one or more of the following:-
- (i) That the speaker is using unparliamentary language.
 - (ii) That the speaker is digressing from the subject of the proposal.
 - (iii) That the rules of the Union are being broken.
 - (iv) That there is an infringement of the customary rules of debate.
 - (v) That there is an infringement of the Standing Orders (which shall be referred to the Standing Orders Committee).
 - (vi) That technical difficulties (as detailed in SO8) are impacting on the functioning of Conference.
- q The Chairperson's ruling on a point of order shall be final unless it is challenged. The correct method of challenging the ruling shall be to indicate in the 'Chat' function on the ZOOM platform "I wish to challenge your ruling." Such a proposal shall be carried by a simple majority.
- r The Standing Orders Committee shall have the right to enter debate on all matters affecting the decisions and role of the Committee.

4. VOTING PROCEDURE

Voting at the Virtual Retired Members Conference shall be electronic. Decisions on conference proceedings shall be by a simple majority.

Because of the nature of the virtual voting system, up to 3 minutes will be allowed on each vote (subject to SO9)

Branches will be given a unique weblink to the voting platform to cast their virtual online vote.

5. PROCEDURE FOR EMERGENCY MOTIONS

- a Emergency motions may only be submitted for inclusion in the Agenda if they refer to a matter which because of the circumstances giving rise to them could not possibly have been submitted by the published closing date for motions. Such emergency motions will only be accepted by the SOC if they constitute a significant and important matter, which requires a decision by Conference.
- b Emergency motions must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by midnight on **Wednesday 19th January 2022**. Branches and Regional Committees will be advised by the SOC whether or not the emergency motion has been accepted for inclusion to the Agenda prior to the commencement of Conference. **No Emergency Motions will be accepted after that date.**
- c A decision taken by Conference shall not be open to the emergency procedure at the same Conference.

6. APPEALS/REFERENCE BACK PROCEDURE

- a Written notice of appeals/intention to move reference back against decisions of the Standing Orders Committee as published in the Agenda

regarding:-

- (i) motions not admitted to the agenda
- (ii) inclusion/exclusion of motions in a composite
- (iii) the priority/placement given to a motions
- (iv) timetable/programme of business
- (v) the Standing Orders for Conference
- (vi) the consequential rulings on motions

must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by midnight **Wednesday 19th January 2022** by email to conferences@cwu.org Such written notice must advise of the intention to appeal/move reference back to alter the published agenda with details and reasons for doing so.

After consideration of appeals/reference back by the SOC, Branches or Regional Committees who have followed the correct appeal/reference back procedure wishing to continue their appeal/reference back must firstly advise the SOC of their continued appeal.

The SOC will then advise the Chair of the Conference the details of the Branches/Regional Committees who have the right to address conference at the commencement of business on **Tuesday 25th January 2022**.

- b Challenges to other SOC decisions as printed or announced in supplementary SOC reports must be made at the time the supplementary report is moved. Such challenges can be made to Conference by a delegate indicating in the 'Chat' function on the ZOOM platform. When called to speak, advising Conference that they wish to challenge a decision of the SOC and giving the reasons why.
- c All appeals/reference backs will be deemed carried if they have the support of a simple majority of Conference (SO4 applies).

7. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- a Motions to suspend Standing Orders shall only be allowed to deal with business or circumstances that could not have been foreseen when the timetable/Programme of Business was adopted and when raised will only apply to the session in progress.
- b The Chairperson may accept a motion for the suspension of Standing Orders provided no motion is on the platform being debated.

Any such motion must state the Standing Order/Orders involved and also state the nature and urgency of the business as to why the suspension is required.

The Chairperson shall immediately refer such a motion to the Standing Orders Committee who shall express their view before the vote is taken. A motion for the suspension of Standing Orders will be carried if supported by a simple majority of the Conference (SO4 applies).

- c At the end of the period of suspension of Standing Orders the Conference shall return to the next business in that section only. No subsequent motion for the variation of the timetable to compensate for time lost by the suspension of a Standing Order/Orders or the discussion of such suspension shall be admissible.

8. BALLOTS

- a There will be a ballot to select two motions this Conference will forward for submission to the 2022 General Conference. Further details on the process for the ballot will be made available at the conference.
- b Should there be a request at General Conference to remit a motion in respect of the 2022 Conference motions, the mover of the motion at General Conference will be deemed to have the authority to agree to the remittance on behalf of the 2022 Conference, subject to the agreement of General Conference.

9. TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

- a Where a Branch/Regional Committee or individual delegate are unable to access the online platform or are unable to be heard it shall be deemed that their motion has been formally moved or seconded, if a Branch/Regional Committee is then able to log on prior to the conclusion of the debate, they retain the right to contribute to that debate, including the Right of Reply (SO3i).
- b If there is a major fault to the online platform/s the Chairperson shall have the right to suspend or adjourn proceedings and extend the timetable if required.
- c Where Branches experience difficulties but are still able to use the separate online voting system those votes shall still remain valid.

10. USE OF 'CHAT' FUNCTION

The 'Chat' function must be limited to:

- i. Raising 'Points of Order' (SO3p)
- ii. Legitimate conference proceedings (SO3m,n,q)

11. PROHIBITIONS

Inappropriate behaviour or breach of this prohibition can result in removal from the conference platform.

TIMETABLE AND PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

- 10.30 Chairpersons opening remarks
- 10.35 Dave Ward, General Secretary
- 10.55 Adoption of Virtual Retired Members Conference
Standing Orders Committee Report (including
appeals/reference backs)
- 11.05 Section II - Motions 1-7
- 12.20 Ballot to represent Retired Members at General
Conference 2022
- 12.30 Conference adjourns
- 13.00 Section II - Motions 1-7 continued
- 13.30 Ballot
- 13.40 Tony Kearns, SDGS
- 13.55 Chairpersons closing remarks
- 14.00 Conference closes

SECTION II NATIONAL ISSUES

1 COMPOSITE MOTION

This conference notes that the current telephone network will close by the end of 2025. The closure of this network could lead to associated costs for our members, particularly our retired members who rent a "line only" from their telecom provider.

This conference instructs the Retired Members Committee to work with the NEC to mount a campaign that ensures that telecom providers immediately inform "line only" renters of any financial impact this network closure will have.

South East Wales Amal
Wales and Marches Regional Retired Members Committee

- 2** This conference applauds the campaign by the WASPI women to achieve pensions justice for women born in the 1950's and notes that the Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman (PHSO) found that there was "maladministration" over the way the changes were communicated.

Despite this the PHSO is yet to recommend compensation. This Conference instructs the RMC to work with the NEC to fully support the WASPI women and campaign both within the TUC and Labour Party for this matter to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

Retired Members Committee

- 3** This Conference recognises that the proposed Health & Care Bill 2021 is not fit for purpose.

This Conference believes that the Bill, rather than solving the problems facing the NHS, will simply provide increased access for the private sector into the NHS.

This will be detrimental to taxpayers who fund the NHS and to NHS workers whose terms and conditions of employment are likely to be further eroded while providing no realistic benefit to patients.

The Bill extends proposals contained within the 2012 bill including:

- Ministerial Powers to intervene at local level.
- Provision for the sharing of personal medical information, including to private health partners.
- Any suitable provider clause, allowing private operators to provide services formerly provided by the NHS.

- Integrated Care Systems that will have full financial autonomy and the power to decide which healthcare services they will, or will not, provide.
- Significantly, there are no proposals addressing the current staff shortages within the NHS or the impact this will have on current or proposed services.

The RMC via the NEC are instructed to use every means at their disposal to oppose this bill.

This should include the use of the CWU's internal resources in alerting our own membership to the dangers this bill represents and working with affiliated organisations including the TUC and the Labour Party to oppose this bill.

North West Regional Committee

- 4** This Conference instructs the Retired Members Committee to work with the NEC to ensure that every CWU Branch with a Retired Members' Section, especially those that receive the Retired Members' Rebate from the CWU National Fund, has endorsed and is complying totally with the CWU's Branch Model Constitution.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

Retired Members Committee

- 5** Conference agrees that Alzheimers and other Dementias, are terrible illnesses that blight lives and causing lasting pain for those who suffer from it; and for those who care for and about them.

Conference believes that not enough is being done to combat these terrible illnesses; and with an ageing population it is high time it was given a higher priority.

Conference further agrees that there are three main areas that require improvements.

- 1) Research into cures and treatments. Conference believes that there is more that can be done to treat Alzheimers. But conference also believe it is criminal that more research isn't being done in preventative medicine to stop people being afflicted in the first place.
- 2) Residential care for those with severe Alzheimers. Conference feels that far too many victims are unable to access dedicated residential care for Alzheimers. Whilst this is related to the long standing problems with care in the UK; the problem is particularly acute for those with Alzheimers who often require round the clock care.
- 3) Support for those who care for Alzheimers sufferers at home. The overwhelming majority of whom are the spouse or partner of sufferer. Many are elderly and have care needs, or health problems themselves. These people are massively under supported in terms of help, and financial assistance.

Conference believes the last of these is the area that requires the most urgent work; and that is most likely to directly impact on the lives of Class C CWU members and their families.

Therefore Conference resolves that the RMC should work with the NEC, and partner organisation's (such as the NPC, Alzheimers Society etc) to launch a campaign for better support and assistance for those either battling Alzheimers at home, or those offering care to them in their home.

The RMC is instructed to provide a report on the progress of this campaign to next years Retired Members conference.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

Plymouth and East Cornwall Amal

- 6** This conference fully supports the campaign by the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) and other organisations to defend the Triple Lock, improve social care provision and protect other elderly people's entitlements. However conference recognises that only with the active support of the trades union and labour movement can these campaigns be fully successful.

This conference instructs the RMC to work with the NEC to urge the TUC and Labour Party to lead a campaign to defend and improve current entitlements for retired people.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

Retired Members Committee

- 7** Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men with around 52,300 new cases every year which has devastating effect on their lives and their families and if caught early enough it would make the impact less severe, it is therefore imperative that a screening program is introduced in the UK.

This being the case this conference instructs the RMC to campaign to have prostate cancer screening for all men over 50 introduced in all NHS administrations in the UK I:E England Scotland Wales N/Ireland, and to raise awareness amongst CWU members by all means reasonable.

Scotland No.2

MOTIONS NOT ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA

- 8** This retired conference instructs the NEC, to provide legal representation, for not only retiring members but also their dependents. Maintaining membership is the life blood of the Union, and must not be taken for granted. There has been a dramatic reduction in the number of retired members during the past few years, which urgently needs to be addressed. This decline may be due to a number of reasons, natural death, working beyond retirement age or failure to recruit prior to last day of service. Branches need to have something to sell in order to get members to retain their membership after retirement. Previously we used the death benefit and full legal services as the main points to encourage continued membership. Since the introduction of UnionLine legal services has become an advice line, advice which can be obtained outside of the union at no cost. In order to address the issue of retention there must be in place a number of actual benefits, commencing with the restoration of full legal services to retired members and their dependents.

This conference instructs the NEC to restore full legal services to retired members and their dependents. Should this require a rule change the NEC is further instructed to submit a rule change to the next rules revision conference.

London Regional Committee
