



'One union, one voice'

Fighting for you, Fighting for our Industry

THE RAIL UNION

Reclaiming our Industry

Dear Colleague,

Like everyone, we remain conscious that we are still living a different way of life due to Covid, and our working environment has adapted to these changing times. For this reason, we would like to thank the people who are working for this union under such difficult periods, and it is their safety that we remain committed to and must always consider. Due to the strength of these people, we are steadfast to your representation, and we appreciate the letters of thanks received.

Although the government have removed restrictions, coronavirus remains a serious health risk, so it is important that you remain vigilant to help protect yourself and others. We are not here to say what you should or should not do but it would be remiss of use if we did not reiterate government advice on areas that will benefit and protect you and others. Where possible, meet outside, or open windows and doors for indoor visitors; if you think you have symptoms stay at home and take a PCR test; wear face coverings in crowded places and on public transport; check in to venues when you go out; wash your hands with soap regularly, and for at least 20 seconds and those over 18 or over, please consider vaccination.

Remember, it remains a time where everyone is affected and during such moments it is a period for every person to come together in order that we continue protect each other as a community. Accordingly, as we face one of the biggest challenges of our generation it is important that rail unions come together in the protection of the rail community because it is the community which is the primary factor to why we are all here.

The idea of 'coming together' is not an absorption into one unidentifiable conglomerate. On the contrary, we believe that the amalgamation into super unions causes a diluting effect between the relationship of Trade Unions and the worker. In essence, the workers no longer have a connection with large unions because the worker has no affinity with them.

The 'coming together' with one distinct understanding and greater relationship between rail unions creates one distinct identity. All workers, be they signallers, cleaners, caterers, drivers, conductors, track worker etc, will become one family, protecting, and caring for each other, it is a rail fraternity for all rail people.

There is help.

Many members continually talk to us about those in the family who have some form of illness or disability that restricts their ability to work.

To be disabled is a difficult road in life to travel but the government have made such a journey even more complicated. This is more so when disabled people seek the financial support that helps them live a full and active life that we, unknowingly, take for granted.

2011 saw new changes to financial benefit for people who are unable to work due to incapacity or illness. Out went the old incapacity benefit and in came the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and with it an over convoluted structure that is complex and unclear and something that would drain the energy from the most of us.

The whole structure is interspersed with acronyms

such as LCWA, LCWRA , WCA, WRAG, WFHRA, PIP and don't forget the forms DS1500 or ESA50A but most important is the deadlines.

Miss these and you are instantly penalised. For example, there is only one month from the date on one decision letter deadline for asking for reconsideration. If you miss this deadline and the Department for Works and Pension don't accept your reason for lateness then there appears to be no way of challenging this at all, other than perhaps by a very complex judicial review. Instead, you are likely to have to attempt a fresh claim.

But don't despair, there is help. We have found an excellent organisation called 'Benefits and Work' who are completely independent, run by people who only care about helping you. They do this by providing you with the most honest, detailed and practical information available anywhere. So, if you want to

give yourself or a relative the best possible chance of a successful claim, take a look at their website. They will warn you of pitfalls, offer you specialist tips and tactics and guide you through every part of this bewildering process.

The website is full of information relating to Employment and Support Allowance; Employment and Support Allowance Medicals and appeals and Personal Independence Payment (which replaced Disablement Benefit)

Benefit and Work website can be found at :

www.benefitsandwork.co.uk

ATCU Head Office

ATCU Union. PO Box 763, Cudworth. BARNSELY S72 8YD

Tel: 01226 716417

Email: hq@atcu.org.uk

Urgent: 07360087009



Statement to members for period ended 2019 as required by section 32a of trade union and labour relations (consolidation) act 1992

Income and Expenditure

The total income of the union for the period was £29443. This amount included payments of £29443 in respect of membership income of the union. The union's total expenditure for the period was £28794 .

Political Fund

The union does not have a political fund.

General Secretary Salary and Other benefits

The General Secretary was not paid any amount in

respect of salary or benefits.

Irregularity statement

A member who is concerned that some irregularity may be occurring, or have occurred, in the conduct of the financial affairs of the union may take steps with a view to investigating further, obtaining clarification and, if necessary, securing regularisation of that conduct.

The member may raise any such concern with such one or more of the following as it seems appropriate to raise it with: the officials of the union, the trustees of the property of the union, the auditor or auditors of the union, the Certification Officer (who is an independent officer appointed by the Secretary of State) and the police.

Where a member believes that the financial affairs of the union have been or are being conducted in breach of the law or in breach of the rules of the union and contemplates bringing civil proceedings against the union or responsible officials or trustees, he should consider obtaining independent legal advice.

Auditor's report Hardwicks. Chartered Accountants. Rotherham S66 1EH