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01 March 2021

Dear Member,

Your right to support TSSA's Campaigning Political Fund

It is a legal requirement under the Section 84A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, that TSSA must notify all members joining after the 1st of March 2018 of their right to give a withdrawal notice of their willingness to contribute the Unions political fund.

Our Political Fund is used explicitly to extend and build the influence of TSSA in the political arena, so we have the ability to influence MPs, AMs, MSPs, Councillors and so forth. It also allows us to campaign against legislation that will be detrimental to your life at work, or indeed to campaign to make TSSA conference policy a reality – whether that be campaigning for a publicly owned and accountable railway in Britain, to opposing dangerous fossil fuel fracking, or influencing transport policy in Westminster, Holyrood or the Welsh Assembly. **It's a crucial part of our Unions work to fight your corner every single day at work, so the majority of our members chip in just a little every month to ensure we fund this work properly. I hope that you will therefore consider remaining paying into our campaigning political fund to support this work.**

The legislation brought in during 2016 means that we are required to highlight to you the part of the TSSA rule book on our Political Fund.

TSSA's full rule book is available on our website, just visit the following link:

<https://www.tssa.org.uk/en/Your-union/TSSA-democracy/rule-book-and-guidance-notes/index.cfm>

The relevant rule that we are required to write to you as a new member about begins on page 47 of our 2018 rule book under section 14B. I copy that section of our Unions rules in full here:

14B POLITICAL FUND: RULES THAT APPLY TO MEMBERS THAT JOINED THE ASSOCIATION ON OR AFTER 1ST MARCH 2018 (EXCEPT NORTHERN IRELAND MEMBERS) AND TO POLITICAL FUNDS SET UP ON OR AFTER 1st MARCH 2018

Opting in by Association members to contribute to political funds

www.tssa.org.uk

members' helpdesk **0800 3282673**

General Secretary **Manuel Cortes**



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(1) A member cannot be required to make a contribution to the political fund of the Association unless they have given notice of their willingness to contribute to that fund (an "opt-in notice").

(2) A member who has given an opt-in notice may withdraw that notice by giving notice to the Association (a "withdrawal notice").

(3) A withdrawal notice takes effect at the end of the period of one month beginning with the day on which it is given.

(4) A member may give an opt-in notice or a withdrawal notice:-

(a) by delivering the notice (either personally or by an authorised agent or by post) at the head office or a branch office of the Association;

(b) by sending it by e-mail to the Association at membership@tssa.org.uk;

(c) by completing an electronic form provided by the Association which sets out the notice and sending it to the Association by electronic means in accordance with instructions given by the Association;

(c) by any other electronic means prescribed under the 1992 Act.

Information to members about opting in to the political fund

(5) The Association shall take all reasonable steps to secure that, not later than the end of the period of eight weeks beginning with the day on which the annual return of the Association is sent to the Certification Officer, all the members of the Association are notified of their right to give a withdrawal notice.

(6) Such notification may be given:-

(a) by sending individual copies of it to members; or

(b) by any other means (whether by including the notification in a publication of the Association or otherwise) which it is the practice of the Association to use when information of general interest to all its members needs to be provided to them.

(7) The notification may be included with the statement required to be given by section 32A of the 1992 Act. Overseas members of the Association will not be sent the notification.

(8) The Association shall send to the Certification Officer a copy of the notification which is provided to its members as soon as is reasonably practicable after it is so provided.

(9) Where the same form of notification is not provided to all the members of the Association, the Association shall send to the Certification Officer a copy of each form of notification provided to any of them.

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(10) If any member alleges that he is aggrieved by a breach of any of these rules for giving information to members about opting into the political fund, being a rule or rules made pursuant to section 84A of the 1992 Act, he may complain to the Certification Officer.

Where the Certification Officer is satisfied that the Association has failed to comply with a requirement of section 84A of the 1992 Act the Officer may make such order for remedying the failure as he thinks just under the circumstances. Before deciding the matter the Certification Officer:-

- (a) may make such enquiries as the Officer thinks fit;
- (b) must give the Association, and any member of the Association who made a complaint to the Officer regarding the matter, an opportunity to make written representations; and
- (c) may give the Association, and any such member as is mentioned in clause (b), an opportunity to make oral representations.

Manner of giving effect to decision not to contribute to political fund

(11) The Association shall give effect to member decisions not to contribute to the political fund of the Association by making a separate levy of contributions to that fund from the members who are contributors. The amount of such levy shall be 3.5% of the relevant weekly subscription rate.

(12) Any form (including an electronic form) that a person has to complete in order to become a member of the Association shall include:-

- (a) a statement to the effect that the person may opt to be a contributor to the fund;
- And (b) a statement to the effect that a person who chooses not to contribute to the political fund shall not, by reason of not contributing, be excluded from any benefits of the Association or be placed in any respect either directly or indirectly under a disability or at a disadvantage as compared with other members of the Association (except in relation to control of the political fund).

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If you wish to opt out of the political fund, or opt in, then you must notify us in writing. Please send any email correspondence to membership@tssa.org.uk or write to us at Head Office at the address at the top of this letter.

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Together we are stronger, I hope that you will either continue to opt-in to our political fund or chose to do so to support our campaigning work going forward, thereby making your life better at work every single day.

With best wishes



Manuel Cortes

General Secretary

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