



T&G Parliamentary Staff Branch Newsletter



Transport and General Workers' Union

www.tgwu.org.uk

SSRB and Queue-jumping - Campaigns update

Extra half post increase in members' salary allowance.

The branch produced a briefing for all MPs on the Senior Salaries Review Body report. The report proved a victory for the branch's oral and written evidence to the SSRB.

"Recommendation 20 a Staffing Expenditure increase to allow MPs to employ up to 3.5 full-time (or equivalent) members of staff; Recommendation 21 that the ceiling should be £96,630; Recommendation 22: that the ceiling on be increased by £1,720 for each fulltime equivalent member of staff based in London, up to a maximum of £102,650. "

The branch's task now is to ensure that that expenditure increase is passed on to researchers and case-workers. As it says in the briefing we sent round to MPs: 20% of MPs don't pass on all of their staffing allowance to staff.

We are also continuing to push MPs on the automatic uprating of salaries. Their staffing allowance goes up every year but many of them do not pass this increase on. We are also going to push MPs on the starting salaries of researchers and secretaries which at around £13,000 are far too low. The branch issued a press release calling on MPs to pass on the whole 3.7% increase in this year's allowance to their staff.

MP of the year so far goes to Linda Gilroy MP, who in the debate on the SSRB argued that if MPs get their pay automatically uprated, so should staff. We get another chance to lobby MPs on this when some of the recommendations go to the Members Estimates Committee, to which we have been invited to give evidence.

MPs To Review Queue Jumping Rule

Meanwhile, the T&G Parliamentary Staff Branch have won a victory in their fight against the rule that allows MPs to queue jump their staff.

Administration Committee Chairman Frank Doran informed the branch chair Dan Whittle that following their meeting on the 19th Feb, the committee has decided to review the operation of Members Priority Access Policy in twelve months time.

The meeting discussed a petition presented to the House of Commons by Lembit Opik MP who has been fronting the campaign from the MPs side.

Dan Whittle is writing to Frank Doran to ask the date of the review to be brought forward to twelve months from the time the Sergeant At Arms issued the controversial ruling last year (http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7037151.stm).

Dan said: "The committee has made the right decision to review the queue jumping rule, thanks to the work of Lembit and the T&G members who have campaigned hard on this, but we don't understand the reason for waiting 12 months. EDM 163 shows over 100 MPs want it ditched now."

FREE 12 noon till 6pm Sunday
27 APRIL 2008
victoria park
london E3

unite THE UNION pcs Love Music Hate Racism

**Love Music
Hate Racism
Carnival**

Love music, hate racism? Then get down to this free carnival in Victoria Park, East London on 27th April. Highlights include Tony Benn—and Pete Doherty! More info including how to volunteer can be found at www.lovemusichateracism.com

NEWS: EDM 1057

Nearly 90 MPs have signed EDM 1057, which "calls on the House authorities to look at ways in which the branch could gain consultation rights so that it could have a say on matters such as terms and conditions" for members' staff.



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Global action day for Osanloo

T&G Parliamentary branch secretary Dan Whittle joined Kingston PPC and activist Max Freedman on March 6th to campaign at the Iranian embassy against the continued imprisonment of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, trade union activists in Iran.

As a result of their work for a legal and democratic trade union, the pair have been targeted by the Iranian security forces. Osanloo has had his tongue sliced as a warning against speaking out. He is now being held in Evin Prison in Tehran, where he is in danger of losing his sight in one eye due to a previous beating.



PET4 envelope recycling—do your bit

When opening your Member's post, do you ever see the PET 4 recycled symbol on the forwarding envelope and think you'd like to do your bit here, but don't know how, when plastic recycling banks only accept PET 1 or 2 grade plastics?

Help will be at hand soon. The National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) are compiling a directory of reprocessing companies throughout the UK who will recycle these envelopes.

Thanks to NISP's help, we now have an easy recycling system in place, as shown in the photo. We pack 30 to 40 pouches into a Parliamentary plastic mailer, stick on a preprinted label with the reprocessor's address, seal up the package and drop it off at the nearest Post Office. For remote constituency offices, the local Postie may accept the recycling package when delivering the mail forwarding pouch.

In a single MP's office, you could now save 10kg of plastic going to landfill a year. If all MPs and Peers recycled their forwarding pouches, we would stop thousands of kilos of plastic going to landfill every year. The plastic is used to make things like CD cases and pens.

The directory, when compiled, will be made available to MPs, Peers and staff. In the interim, should you have any queries, please email Adrian Williams in the Department of Facilities for the Parliamentary Directorate of Estates at williamsa@parliament.uk.

Branch info:

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Next branch meeting: Tuesday 22nd April

Email newsletter ideas to sweetc@parliament.uk

Tolpuddle Green Camp

Go to <http://www.tuc.org.uk/extras/greencamp08.pdf> for details of this year's green camp. The camp is a trade union course for those who want to protect the environment by helping to change the way we live our lives, and comes highly recommended.