

Tony Kearns  
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Dear Tony

***Election for NEC, Industrial Executives & Regional Secretaries 2019***

Further to our meeting yesterday with CWU officials, please find below information and an update on the distribution of postal ballot papers to CWU members for the above election.

**Please accept our apologies for the delay in the distribution of the ballot packs to all members and for any inconvenience and confusion we may have caused.**

**We neglected to advise the CWU of the issues we were having with the enclosing of the ballot material which regrettably may have meant that branches and members were not fully advised of the delivery schedule and for this we also apologise. Information was provided to the CWU on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July regarding the distribution of postal packs to members on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July but I regret we did not provide an update when further delays were experienced.**

We can advise that as of yesterday (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July) 80% of the postal packs, 149,800, had been delivered to members or are in the Royal Mail delivery system. The remaining 36,000 postal packs will be handed over to Royal Mail over the next two days (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July).

With 17 different electoral contests involving different groups of members the enclosing of ballot material is split into 34 different sections ranging in size from 1 member to 76,000 members. In common with any election that ERS administers, the schedule is developed by ERS taking into account the complexity of the different sections and the mailsort selection ordering of the postal packs. As postal packs are distributed on a rolling daily basis this will result in members in different areas of the country receiving their ballot packs on different days. The distribution schedule of the ballot packs for the various membership sections is detailed below.

- All Postal and Postal PTS Constituency ballot packs have been posted by economy or second class mail from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July
  - Postal Constituency ballot packs for members in England and Wales were posted in mailsort selection order – (Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> - Selection 318-329, Thurs 4<sup>th</sup>- 330-364, Fri 5<sup>th</sup> – 387-404 and London region, Mon 8<sup>th</sup> – 366-386)
  - Postal Constituency ballot packs for members in Scotland and Northern Ireland were posted on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July.
- T&FS Constituency ballot packs were posted to all members in Santander, Telefonica and Capita on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July
- T&FS Constituency ballot packs to “All other members” have/will be posted as follows:-

- T&FS Constituency ballot packs for all members in Scotland and Northern Ireland were posted on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July
- 10,600 T&FS Constituency ballot packs for member in England and Wales were posted on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July (Selections 318-329)
- 36,000 T&FS Constituency ballot packs for other members in England and Wales will be posted on Tuesday (9<sup>th</sup>) and Wednesday (10<sup>th</sup>)

Delays in the printing and enclosing of the ballot material have meant we have not been able to complete the mailing to the original schedule. We had planned to complete the distribution of the ballot packs by Friday last week but an enclosing machine breakdown on Friday meant that the fulfilment of the ballot packs was further delayed to this week. Unfortunately, due to the complexity (number of items) required to be filled in each postal pack for this election there were not immediately replacement enclosing machines available to be utilised.

Over the weekend we activated our contingency arrangements which involve overtime working and the use of partner production facilities. This is enabling us to complete the fulfilment but unfortunately with several days delay. We are upgrading the delivery service for some of the remaining ballot packs to 1st Class (at our cost).

As with any postal ballot once members receive their ballot pack we would advise them if they wish to participate to return their ballot paper promptly to ensure that it is received by the 24<sup>th</sup> July deadline.

We will be monitoring and assessing the return of ballot papers to ERS and if required we will discuss with the CWU if any measures need to be taken to ensure that members have had a reasonable opportunity to cast their vote.

Yours sincerely



**Simon Hearn**

**Deputy Chief Executive**