No: 539/17

9th October 2017

**TO: ALL BRANCHES**

Dear Colleague

**ROYAL MAIL GROUP LEGAL CHALLENGES**

At 6pm on Friday the 6th October, the Union received two separate letters from Royal Mail’s solicitors stating they would be seeking an interim injunction to stop the Industrial Action notified to the employer for strike action to take place next week.

The first letter was in regard to potential legal proceedings and external mediation, which forms part of the process set out in the Agenda for Growth Agreement. In their letter the company acknowledges that the Agenda for Growth Agreement does not stop our members being able to take strike action. However, they claim that the external mediation process has not been fully exhausted, prior to us calling for industrial action.

The second letter was in relation to the company alleging the Union failed to take reasonable steps to notify our members of the ballot result.

Both letters required the Union to respond by noon today and to withdraw the notice for next week’s strike action. In response, we can confirm the Union will not be withdrawing the notice for strike action and following legal advice we will defend our position in court, if necessary.

Since the company’s initial letters were sent on Friday 6th October, we have now received two subsequent communications. Firstly, to notify us that Royal Mail will now apply to the court for an interim injunction in relation to their claim on mediation. Secondly, the company has withdrawn the legal challenge regarding our alleged failure to notify our members of the ballot result. In light of these developments we do therefore expect to be in court later this week.

It is very important that our Branches and Representatives convey the contents of this LTB to our members as soon as possible. The Union has also issued a press release and a copy of this is attached. Further information will be provided in due course.

Any enquiries on the content of this LTB please forward to gsoffice@cwu.org

Yours sincerely

Dave Ward Tony Kearns Terry Pullinger

**General Secretary Senior Deputy General Secretary Deputy General Secretary (P)**

**CWU RESPONDS TO ROYAL MAIL COURT THREAT**

At 6pm on Friday the 6th October, the Union received two separate letters from Royal Mail’s solicitors stating they would be seeking an interim injunction to stop the Industrial Action notified to the employer for strike action to take place next week.

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Since the company’s initial letters were sent on Friday 6th October, we have now received two subsequent communications.  Firstly, to notify us that Royal Mail has now applied to the court for an interim injunction in relation to their claim on mediation.  Secondly, the company has withdrawn the legal challenge regarding our alleged failure to notify our members of the ballot result.

Commenting on the developments CWU General Secretary Dave Ward said “The fact Royal Mail Group have tried multiple angles to stop our members exercising their democratic right to take strike action shows how desperate they are. Instead of playing court room politics they should be listening to the overwhelming ballot result. We call on the public and businesses across the country to back their postal workers in what was always going to be a watershed dispute.

CWU Deputy General Secretary Terry Pullinger said “Our members voted by 9 to 1 to back their union. This underhanded act from the employer is a deliberate attempt to misinterpret and use the agreement to stop postal workers exercising our right to strike and will only anger members further. This union is not going away and will stand up for our members in the court room and in every workplace across the UK. This dispute was never about Christmas it’s about protecting our members and this great public service and it will take as long as it takes. We will defend our members through whatever means necessary.”