



# **AGENDA**

**RETIRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE  
THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

**CWU Headquarters  
150 The Broadway  
Wimbledon  
London  
SW19 1RX**

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### **Welcome From the General Conference Standing Orders Committee**

Welcome to the CWU Retired Members Conference of 2023 on behalf of the General Conference Standing Orders Committee.

This year we have again used the same criteria for motions that will be used for General Conference 2024 and, as such, the Standing Orders are as close as possible to those which will be in place for that Conference.

We have, recognised an issue with Emergency motions being submitted at times where we have no facilities to deal with such motions. To rectify this issue the submission of Emergency motions will close at Noon on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October as reflected in the standing orders.

The Standing Orders Committee will be in attendance during the Conference should any Delegate have any question over procedure, and to conduct the Ballot(s) for motions to go forward to General Conference as well as the delegates to represent the Retired Members at General Conference 2024. Further information will be given at the start of the conference as well as prior to the commencement of the ballots.

May you all enjoy a successful Conference.

**Joyce Stevenson and Tony Sneddon**  
**General Conference Standing Orders Committee**

## Retired Members' Conference 2023 Standing Orders

1. The sessions of the Retired Members Conference shall commence in accordance with the timetable

### 2. TIMETABLE

- a 10.00 Registration  
10.30 Chairperson's Opening Remarks  
10.35 General Secretary's Address  
10.55 Adoption of Retired Members Conference Standing Orders Committee Report (including appeals/reference backs)  
11.05 Section II – Motions 1-16  
12.20 Ballot to represent Retired Members at General Conference 2024  
12.30 Lunch  
13.30 Section II - Motions 1-16 Continued  
14.55 Ballot  
15.05 Senior Deputy General Secretary  
15.25 Chairperson's Closing Remarks  
15.30 Close of Conference
- b The doors of Conference will open at 10.00 with conference commencing at 10.30 and closing at 15.30

Conference is divided into two half-day sessions. If the business of any section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall proceed immediately to the next section of business.

If all the business of the final section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall return to the earliest uncompleted business.

### 3. PROCEDURE IN DEBATE

- a Every member of the Conference must remain in their seat, except the one who may be addressing the Conference and, should the Chairperson rise, no-one else shall continue standing nor shall anyone else rise until the Chairperson has resumed the Chair.

#### SPEAKERS

- b A delegate when speaking from the rostrum shall address the Chairperson. If two or more persons desire to speak at the same time the Chairperson shall decide to whom priority will be given. No person shall be allowed to speak twice on the same question.
- c All speeches shall be confined to the subject under discussion.
- d Delegates may only refer to documents which have a bearing on the subject under discussion.
- e
  - (i) Motions standing in the name of a Branch must be moved by a delegate from that Branch.
  - (ii) Motions standing in the name of a Regional Committee must be moved by a delegate from that body.
  - (ii) Motions must be seconded or else they shall be deemed to have fallen.
- f A motion may be seconded formally or by a speaker making a seconding speech.

**COMPOSITE MOTIONS**

- g All sponsors of a composite motion will be responsible for agreeing the allocation of moving and seconding speakers from amongst those named within the composite motion, notwithstanding the terms of Standing Order 3e(i) and (ii).
- h The mover of a motion shall be allowed to speak for not more than 3 minutes and any other speaker (including the mover exercising the right of reply) for not more than 3 minutes. **In EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES a speaker may request the special permission of Conference to speak for a longer period, if agreed, it shall not exceed a further 2 minutes.**
- i The moving speaker shall have the right of reply to the debate only if there has been opposition and shall not introduce any fresh matter but shall be limited to answering the debate.
- j The National Retired Members Committee (NRMC) shall be allowed one speaker in debate on all motions except those standing in their name. With the exception of Branches and Regional Committees moving and seconding a motion (under SO3e), Branches and Regional Committees, are entitled to one speaker only in each debate.
- k No motion shall be spoken upon except by the mover, until it has been seconded. The mover of a motion who opts not to make a moving speech shall lose the right of addressing Conference but shall still have the right of reply (SO3i) applies. The seconder of a motion who opts not to make a seconding speech shall not lose the right of addressing Conference.

**ENDING DEBATE**

- l Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That the motion be now put" (following the process as detailed in SO3p) on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this motion to the vote. In the event of it being carried by a simple majority of Conference (subject to SO4), Conference shall proceed to vote on the question itself, (subject to SO3j) and the right of reply as stated in SO3i being exercised.
- m Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That Conference proceeds to next business" (following the process as detailed in SO3p) on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this proposal to the vote (subject to SO4b). In the event of it being carried Conference shall at once proceed to the next item on its agenda.

**WITHDRAWAL**

- n Any motion or composite motion may be withdrawn from the Agenda at any time by the sponsor(s) who shall notify the Standing Orders Committee at the earliest opportunity. Once it has been moved and seconded, however, it shall not be withdrawn except with the agreement of Conference by a simple majority vote.

**POINT OF ORDER**

- o Any person wishing to question the proceedings of Conference may rise on a "point of order", and when called shall state the procedural point in exact terms, whereupon the Chairperson shall immediately give a ruling or refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee for a decision. Any person raising points of order must seek to prove one or more of the following:-
  - (i) That the speaker is using unparliamentarily language.
  - (ii) That the speaker is digressing from the subject of the motion.
  - (iii) That the rules of the Union are being broken.
  - (iv) That there is an infringement of the customary rules of debate.

- (v) That there is an infringement of the Standing Orders (which shall be referred to the Standing Orders Committee).
- p The Chairperson's ruling on a point of order shall be final unless it is challenged. The correct method of challenging the ruling shall be to move: "I wish to challenge your ruling." Such a motion shall be carried by a simple majority.
- q The Standing Orders Committee shall have the right to enter debate on all matters affecting the decisions and role of the Committee.

#### **4. VOTING PROCEDURE**

- a Voting at the Retired Members Conference shall normally be by a show of hand voting cards which shall be issued on the basis of one per Branch in attendance.
- b A card vote may be called for either by the Chairperson of the Retired Members Conference or when 5 or more delegates call for such a vote immediately on the announcement of the decision of the hand vote.

**DURING A CARD VOTE ALL PERSONS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR SEATS AND NO PERSON SHALL ENTER OR LEAVE THE FLOOR OF CONFERENCE.**

Instructions on the card vote will be given by the SOC.

When the motion being voted upon has a consequential effect on the following motion(s), Conference will proceed to the next item of business unaffected by the card vote result. When the card vote result is announced Conference will return to the earlier item provided it is within the timetable.

- c A motion will be deemed carried if it obtains a simple majority of the votes cast.

#### **5. PROCEDURE FOR EMERGENCY MOTIONS**

- a Emergency motions may only be submitted for inclusion in the Agenda if they refer to a matter which because of the circumstances giving rise to them could not possibly have been submitted by the published closing date for motions. Such emergency motions will only be accepted by the SOC if they constitute a significant and important matter, which requires a decision by Conference.
- b Emergency motions must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by noon on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. Branches and Regional Committees will be advised by the SOC whether or not the emergency motion has been accepted for inclusion to the Agenda prior to the commencement of Conference. **No Emergency Motions will be accepted after that date.**

- C A decision taken by Conference shall not be open to the emergency procedure at the same Conference.

#### **6. APPEALS/REFERENCE BACK PROCEDURE**

- a Written notice of appeals/intention to move reference back against decisions of the Standing Orders Committee as published in the Agenda regarding:-
  - (i) motions not admitted to the agenda
  - (ii) inclusion/exclusion of motions in a composite
  - (iii) the priority/placement given to a motion

- (iv) timetable/programme of business
- (v) the Standing Orders for Conference
- (vi) the consequential rulings on motions

must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by noon on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023** by email to [conferences@cwu.org](mailto:conferences@cwu.org) Such written notice must advise of the intention to appeal/move reference back to alter the published agenda with details and reasons for doing so.

After consideration of appeals/reference backs by the SOC, Branches or Regional Committees who have followed the correct appeal/reference back procedure wishing to continue their appeal/reference back must firstly advise the SOC of their continued appeal.

The SOC will then advise the Chair of the Conference the details of the branches/Regional Committees who have the right to address conference at the commencement of business on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

- b Challenges to other SOC decisions as printed or announced in supplementary SOC reports must be made at the time the supplementary report is moved.
- c All appeals/reference backs will be deemed carried if they have the support of a simple majority of Conference. (SO4 applies)
- d The Retired Members Committee will also be required to follow these procedures.

## **7. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

- a Motions to suspend Standing Orders shall only be allowed to deal with business or circumstances that could not have been foreseen when the timetable/Programme of Business was adopted.
- b The Chairperson may accept a motion for the suspension of Standing Orders provided no motion is on the floor being debated.

Any such motion must state the Standing Order/Orders involved and also state the nature and urgency of the business as to why the suspension is required.

The Chairperson shall immediately refer such a motion to the Standing Orders Committee who shall express their view before the vote is taken. A motion for the suspension of Standing Orders will be carried if supported by a simple majority of the Conference (SO4 applies).

- c At the end of the period of suspension of Standing Orders the Conference shall return to the next business in that section only. No subsequent motion for the variation of the timetable to compensate for time lost by the suspension of a Standing Order/Orders or the discussion of such suspension shall be admissible.

## **8. BALLOTS**

- a There will be a ballot to select two motions this Conference will forward for submission to the 2024 General Conference.

Motions in Section II which are carried are eligible for the ballot for General Conference. The ballot will take place at the end of Section II motions

The ballot box will be open subject to the timetable of Conference and located next to the administration table. The SOC shall be responsible for counting the ballot and advising the Chairperson of the result, which will be announced prior to the close of Conference. In the event of a tie, the SOC will administer an exhaustive ballot.

- b Should there be a request at General Conference to remit a motion in respect of the 2024 Conference motions, the mover of the motion at General Conference will be deemed to have the authority to agree to the remittance on behalf of the 2024 Conference, subject to the agreement of General Conference.

**9. PROHIBITIONS**

- a The use of mobile telephones are prohibited anywhere within the confines of the Conference Hall.

No documents, posters or banners shall be circulated, distributed or displayed within the Conference Hall without the permission of the Standing Orders Committee.

## Timetable and Programme of Business

- 10.00 Registration
- 10.30 Chairpersons opening remarks
- 10.35 General Secretary's Address
- 10.55 Adoption of Retired Members Conference Standing Orders Committee Report (including appeals/reference backs)
- 11.05 Section II – Motions 1-16
- 12.30 Ballot to represent Retired Members at General Conference 2024
- 13.30 Section II - Motions 1-16 continued
- 14.55 Ballot
- 15.05 Tony Kearns, SDGS
- 15.25 Chairpersons closing remarks
- 15.30 Conference closes

**DELEGATES ARE REMINDED THAT THE BALLOT BOX WILL BE LOCATED AT THE SOC TABLE.**



## **SECTION II NATIONAL ISSUES**

- 1** Conference notes the launch by the Institute for Fiscal Studies of a Pensions Review headed by Alistair Darling (former Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer) David Gauke (former Conservative Secretary of State for Work and Pensions) and Joanne Segars (former Chief Executive of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association).

Amongst other things they will be making recommendations on the future of the Triple Lock and the State Pension retirement age. Conference notes the importance of these issues to both current and future pensioners and instructs the Retired Members Committee to approach and work with the National Executive to campaign within the trade union movement and the TUC to have an input into this review with the purpose of protecting and improving current pensions (both State and Occupational) and by establishing a trade union policy and campaign to protect and improve pensions.

### **Retired Members Committee**

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- 2** Triple Lock

It has recently been reported that the triple-lock may be under review again.

As 2024 will be a General Election year, the Retired Members' Committee is instructed to work with the National Executive Committee to campaign with other like-minded bodies to, fully, retain the triple-lock, which is vital if pensions are to stay anywhere near the rate of inflation.

### **Midland No.1**

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- 3** **Defending the Triple Lock**

The state pension Triple lock is under threat with the policy in danger of being scrapped.

Several economists have called for it to be changed or dropped to help save the Treasury cash and according to analysts and party insiders it is on borrowed time. The Triple Lock that guarantees that the state pension increases annually by 2.5 per cent, average wages, or inflation - whichever is highest, delivers a meaningful annual rise in UK state pensions, one of the lowest in the developed world, and must be protected.

Several Tory grandees make no secret of the fact that they think it is unaffordable and want it scrapped with a return to annual rises being decided at the whim of the chancellor. State Pensions must never be

considered as a discretionary spend!

The Tories current commitment to the policy only officially lasts until the end of this parliamentary term in 2024.

Meanwhile Labour is currently refusing to commit to keeping the pension protection in place. Sir Keir Starmer's party is refusing to give a cast-iron pledge until it knows the state of the finances it will inherit. But surely the triple lock is

opposition party, it ought to be saying 'Yes, if elected, we guarantee that we will adhere to the triple lock for the duration of the next parliament' and it needs to be written into their manifesto to make this a hot topic during the next general election and to pressurise the Tories to match their pledge. Either party refusing to do so will risk a massive 'Silver Voter' backlash.

The Triple Lock is vital as it ensures that pensioner income is not destroyed by the rising cost of living. At a time of a cost-of-living crisis, it is completely unacceptable to make already vulnerable people feel even more worried about their future.

**This conference instructs the RMC to work with the NEC to campaign with the TUC to urge the Labour Party to commit to the Triple Lock ahead of the next General Election.**

**Somerset, Devon & Cornwall**

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- 4** Conference agrees that the rate of closures of Pharmacies in England has had an effect on the elderly who will have to travel further for their prescriptions and also if they need medical advice.

A survey from the BBC has shown that since 2017 there have been 1,000 Pharmacies closed, and Boots The Chemist have announced that they will be closing 300 this year.

Also, some Chemists are charging for delivery of Prescriptions because of their financial situation.

This government said we should use our Chemist's for advice to take the pressure off the Doctors Surgeries.

Therefore, the RMC are instructed to work with other groups to put pressure on this government to reverse this alarming decline in our Pharmacies.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

**Plymouth and East Cornwall Amal**

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- 5** This conference agrees that there is concern that many dental practices in England are closing and going private because of the pay and conditions of dentists in the NHS as well as the general underfunding of the NHS. This has had a major effect on Pensioners because of their

fixed incomes who cannot afford to go to private dentists. In a report in January 2020 the British Dental Association (BDA) stated there were 23,731 dentists in the NHS in January 2023 this had gone down to 21,544, that means over 2,000 dentists have left or gone private. Therefore, Conference instructs the RMC to work with other groups to campaign to increase the terms and conditions of NHS dentists and stop the decline in provision through continued underfunding.

The RMC is Instructed Accordingly.

### **Retired Members Committee**

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- 6** That this conference instruct the RMC to collaborate with the NEC to work together with the NPC and Foxglove in their joint campaign exposing the blatant attack on the NHS, by the American company Palantir, which is run by an ex-CIA operative.

### **London Regional Retired Members Committee**

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- 7** With the move of many retail outlets to remove payment by cash and to replace it with "card or electronic" payment methods this causes problems and worry to retired and older people. Many do not have access to system to allow them to pay electronically and view such systems with suspicion.

Cash is still a legal tender in the United Kingdom and the National Retired Members Committee is therefore instructed to start a campaign within the Union and with other external organisations around the UK to highlight that cash must still be accepted at ALL retail outlets and thus protect the rights of the public.

Such action could include writing to the government and such retail outlets refusing to take cash as well as acting with the TUC.

The RMC is so instructed.

### **Great Western**

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- 8** This Conference instructs the Retired Members Committee to work with the NEC to support any credible campaign that would benefit or protect retired members and the wider community. By ensuring that all customer service providers are legally required to provide equal access by person, phone or post to ensure business transactions are not restricted to IT methods, e.g. "card-only" and (or) computer/internet use.

### **York and District Amal**

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- 9** With the ongoing move by Service Providers including Banks, Councils, Railways and the Public Utilities to move their payment and customer enquiries to the internet, this conference expresses it's increasing concern that our Retired Members and pensioners outside our Union who do not have access to the internet for either monetary or other reasons

are being excluded from the services provided by these companies.

This has been highlighted by the proposals to close ticket offices at all railway stations and the ongoing closure of Banks on our high streets.

People who do not have internet access are given no service or at best second-class service thus being classed treated as second class citizens in this country.

This conference therefore instructs the National Retired Members Committee to establish contact with other Pensioners organisations to raise awareness of the problem and to press the government to address the provision of free or reduced cost internet access for all people of retirement age.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

### **South West Regional Retired Members Committee**

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- 10** This conference recognises that the closure of rail station ticket offices will have a detrimental and discriminatory effect on the elderly.

This conference therefore instructs the RMC to work with the NEC in order to help and assist groups opposing such closures, including the National Pensioners Convention, the RMT, other interested unions etc with the aim of stopping / minimising these closures.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

### **Eastern No.6**

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- 11** Conference acknowledges that the requirement for food banks in the UK has increased by over two million households since 2010. This is a stain on our nation and a clear indication that the current Conservative Government is content with millions of people using them as an alternative safety net rather than the government providing adequate pensions and benefit payments.

This Conference agrees that "Enough is Enough", and that the spectre of people queuing to use food banks should be consigned to history as part of the legacy of 13 years of Conservative Government.

Conference therefore instructs the RMC to work with the NEC and other Trade Unions. The National TUC and other interested organisations to ensure that the next Labour Government, will through improved living standards and via improved wages, pensions, and benefit systems, will provide dignity for all those that rely on them. Such action will allow the necessity for food banks to be radically reduced within the tenure of the next Labour Government, with the final goal being to remove the need for food banks from our society.

The remit to attempt to secure a clear manifesto commitment of the Labour Party.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

### **Western Counties**

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- 12** Conference recognises issues effecting C.W.U. Retired Members Commitment to the C.W.U., such as health, family commitments, the number of branches in a region that has a Retired Members Section, the list is not endless.

Conference instructs the Nat RM Committee to work with the NEC to seek to bring about, at the earliest opportunity, a rule change, to change Rule 7.2.1 from "Regional RM Sub-Committee comprising 1 delegate per Branch", to "Regional RM Sub-Committee comprising of 2 delegates per Branch".

### **Northern Ireland West**

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- 13** This Conference instructs the Retired Members Committee to work with the NEC to ensure that every CWU Branch with a Retired Members' Section, in receipt of the Retired Members' Rebate from the CWU under rule 11.6.2 has endorsed and is complying totally with the CWU's Branch Model Constitution.

### **Retired Members Committee**

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- 14** This Conference agrees:

That the National Retired Members Committee (NRMC) committee minutes will be published to Branches following their ratification by the NRMC.

The National Retired Members Committee is instructed accordingly.

### **South East No.5**

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- 15** In the event of a rules revision/redesign conference being held, conference agrees to request from the NEC that the Retired Members Conference will continue to be held Annually.

The Retired Members Committee are instructed to pursue this policy via the NEC and its sub-committees.

### **North West Regional Retired Members Committee**

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## **16 COMPOSITE MOTION**

This conference instructs the RMC to work with the NEC to arrange future Retired Members Annual Conferences to take place during more favourable climate periods; this is in line with a motion carried at a previous conference.

This conference further instructs the RMC to work with the NEC to consider alternative venues for future Retired Members Conferences in areas between the North and South of the UK.

**North East Regional Retired Members Committee  
London Phoenix**

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## MOTIONS NOT ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA

### 17 Model Motion on Tory Minimum Service Levels Bill

Confrence recognises the 'Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill' is a major attack on trade union rights. Sunak's Conservative government are attempting draconian, undemocratic measures to curtail the right to strike.

Coming on the back of four decades of brutal Tory anti-union legislation, from that of Thatcher and Major through to Cameron, Johnson and now Sunak, it is clearly designed to cut across the strike wave across all sectors, rather than tackle the causes of the cost-of-living crisis. This is another crude attempt to shift the blame for inflation onto the working class whereas every worker knows it is the bosses and their class's profiteering, which has created the crisis.

The bill would allow employers to issue a notice to unions setting out who is required to work during a strike. This potentially leaves unions who refuse to comply open to serious financial penalties through sequestration of funds and removes workers' protection from being dismissed for undertaking lawful industrial action.

We demand:

1. All unions and the TUC urgently call a national Saturday demonstration against the new law;
2. Keir Starmer pledges an incoming Labour government to reverse fines and other measures taken against any union under the terms of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act;
3. All employers refuse to use the provisions of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act and that a lead in such non-compliance be given by any government, council, fire authority or other employer led by the Labour Party;
4. If any union is taken to court or worker threatened with dismissal, an emergency demonstration is called and an immediate meeting of the TUC General Council be convened to organise mass co-ordinated strike action, including a 24-hour general strike;
5. The repeal of all anti-union legislation.

**Coventry**

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### 18 The NEC is instructed to campaign with any incoming Labour government to work on the current triple lock state pension arrangements to make improvements that reflect properly the balance or improvements between pensions and taxation by way of improving income. Any improvement to triple lock state pension should not be retrograde.

The NEC is instructed accordingly.

**Eastern No.5**

## **NOTES**