

Pay Campaign Weekly Update – 24/2/06

Summary

- A robust discussion was held at the Staff Council meeting, and a formal response to our points is awaited. The next phase of the campaign will be planned and agreed at the joint unions' Council on the 28/2. Campaign postcards and wristbands should be with you early this week.

Central Lobbying

- **Meeting with Chairman:** Further to our meeting now several weeks ago, the Chairman has drafted two statements relating to the role of unions in the Commission and the imposition of the pay offer. Whilst both are helpful and supportive, neither is conclusive in the context of resolving the current dispute. The statements will be discussed by the Unions' Council on the 28/2 and will probably be circulated later this week (w/c 27/2).
- **Staff Council:** The Staff Council met on the 21/2 and had a number of 'robust discussions' regarding pay, non-pay benefits and Forest Holidays. After some toing-and-froing we left the EB with three questions; will they agree to field a negotiating team [for pay 2006] which is properly empowered to negotiate; will they agree to make good the deficiencies of the 2005 deal in 2006; and will they agree never to impose a pay deal again! We are currently waiting a response to these points, and in the interim the Unions' Council will be discussing the next stage of the campaign at its meeting on the 28th.
- The **quote of the week** came from a member of the EB who opined that staff would view the forthcoming non-pay benefit scheme as worth 'at least a 3% pay rise' – I'll leave you to guess which one said it!!
- Further details of central lobbying plans will be sent out in a logbook later *this* week – I promise.

Local Activity

- Current focus remains on awareness of campaign issues and recruitment; though this will be reassessed later this week.
- **Postcards & Wristbands:** Campaign postcards and wristbands were distributed last week and should be with you today or tomorrow. The postcards are designed to highlight the issues behind the campaign so please distribute them and put them up in your workplace. In particular please hand them out to non-members as part of the on-going recruitment drive. The **wristbands** are primarily intended for union members but again please use them wisely. We have tried to divide the cards and bands as evenly as possible, but if you need more then please let me know. Also if for whatever reason you are not going to use many of the items, then please can you return any unused items to me in Silvan House in order that we can reallocate them.
- **Recruitment:** I know it's hard work, but please keep chipping away on this.
- **Posters & Recruitment forms.** These are still available for download. If you're having trouble printing the posters, please let me know and we'll post some to you. Also **Noticeboard Headers** are available for download. If you can't print it, shout and we'll send you one.
- **Meeting Packs:** Should hopefully be available early next week.

Edward Shephard

27/2/06