

74TH ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE — HULL, 2022

TUC YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER

EMERGENCY MOTIONS RECEIVED

Consolidated emergency motions received by 20 April 2022. Any emergency motions received after this time will follow separately.

EMERGENCY MOTION 01

JUSTICE FOR P&O FERRY WORKERS (RMT)..... p.1

EMERGENCY MOTION 02

PRIVATISATION OF CHANNEL 4 (EQUITY).....p. 3

EMERGENCY MOTION 03

DWP OFFICE CLOSURES (PCS).....p. 4

EMERGENCY MOTION 01

JUSTICE FOR P&O FERRY WORKERS

Conference is shocked and appalled at P&O Ferries firing 800 seafarers, including many by Zoom call and replacing them with below minimum wage agency crew on the same day, including on the Hull to Netherlands route.

Conference notes that there was no prior notification or consultation with the recognised trade unions, the RMT and Nautilus, and is shocked that P&O hired 'hand cuff trained' private security guards to remove these skilled seafarers from their place of work and replace them with agency crew to work long unsafe hours.

Conference also notes MPs were told by lawyers at committee hearings on 24th March that P&O ferries were in breach of multiple laws by their actions.

Conference expresses disgust at the comments of P&O Chief Executive Peter Hebblethwaite who told the MPs that the company chose to break the law and would do it again.

Conference demands justice for these workers sacked by illegal acts and notes that the sacked seafarers, 600 Ratings and 200 Officers were offered payments which effectively 'price in' breaking some employment law.

Conference also shares the view of RMT and Nautilus that there are numerous safety concerns arising from the decision to replace entire crews who had long experience with the ships, with crew who have no experience with the ships, and calls on the regulator to refuse to allow these ships to sail on safety grounds and these concerns have been already been out by the delays and detention of ships.

Conference notes that P&O Ferries received millions of pounds from taxpayers during the pandemic and that the business was kept afloat by the key workers who have been summarily sacked.

Conference welcomes the massive public and political support for justice for P&O workers and fully supports the RMT's campaign to get these crews reinstated, and specifically,

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- The government to take against P&O to stop the ships sailing until there is justice for P&O workers and if necessary to seize control of the ships.
- A widespread public and commercial boycott of P&O Ferries and no government financial support of any kind for P&O Ferries and their owners DP World until the workers are reinstated.
- Emergency legislation to ensure that what happened at P&O Ferries can never happen again including giving trade unions the right to take pre-emptive legal action to prevent companies breaking the law.
- Emergency legislation to ensure seafarers working out of UK Ports to the continent have the same employment protections as land-based workers.
- Support for the RMT Fair Ferries campaign which aims to ensure that ships sailing from UK ports to the continent are covered by agreed collective bargaining agreements and safety arrangements with the maritime unions

Finally, we reiterate our support for the repeal of all anti- trade union laws to give workers the power they need to defeat gangsters like P&O Ferries.

MOVER: RMT

74TH ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE — HULL, 2022

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EMERGENCY MOTION 02

PRIVATISATION OF CHANNEL 4

This TUC Yorkshire and Humber AGM condemns the recent government decision to privatise public broadcaster Channel 4.

This sell off of a public asset undermines the aim of increasing media plurality and diversity in public sector broadcasting and threatens the regional economy, especially at a time when the opening of Channel 4's Nations and Regions headquarters in Leeds has been so effective in stimulating the independent production sector in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Whilst being publicly owned, Channel 4 has been a self- sustaining model that has met its goal of producing content that is varied, informative, and reflective of Britain.

Its programming has challenged, supported, shocked, and affirmed in equal measure.

Channel 4's output does not please everyone, but everyone can find something to please them on Channel 4.

Established by a conservative government, it has been successful in its commercial enterprise whilst remaining publicly owned and created positive work for a growing cultural sector.

This AGM calls on the TUC Yorkshire and Humber executive to campaign with trade unions, members of the public, and the widespread political opposition, including among Conservative MPs and peers, to what appears to be an irrational, questionable and unnecessary policy that is vindictive towards both this region and particular programme makers.

MOVER: Equity

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DWP OFFICE CLOSURES

This conference notes that on 17 March 2022 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) announced the closure of 42 “back of office” sites. These sites include Bradford Leeds Road, Doncaster Crossgate House and Rotherham Discovery House. In addition, staff working in Chesterfield will be moved to Sheffield Hartshead Square, and “transitional” offices Hull Oriel House and York Monkgate are also under threat. The programme of closures will be carried out under the banner of Workplace Transformation/Network Design, with implementation from January 2023. A further review may also result in the closure of public facing offices such as Jobcentres.

DWP argues that much of their estate is no longer fit for purpose and that the proposals take into account the “green” agenda. Whilst in some cases staff will be moved to more suitable local premises, PCS has major concerns over the closure programme and the impact on staff including the very real possibility of up to 3000 redundancies nationally.

Where work and staff are “consolidated” in other sites, these sites will not be within reasonable travelling distance for many PCS members. There will be a major impact on part-time staff including those with childcare or other caring responsibilities. No equality impact assessment has taken place nationally or locally. In addition, despite claiming otherwise, the effect of closure on the local economy has not been taken into account. PCS members have reacted incredulously to claims the closures will benefit the environment, because of the additional travel required to work at the alternative sites, and the ability staff have demonstrated during the pandemic to work on a hybrid basis.

PCS has launched a campaign against closures and potential redundancies. This conference agrees to:

1. Oppose these attacks on PCS members and the crucial services they provide
2. Highlight the impact the office closures will have on communities and the local economy
3. Support PCS in lobbying MPs in Yorkshire and the Humber
4. Encourage affiliates to send messages of support to PCS
5. Publicise the wider attack on welfare provision at a time when it's needed more than ever
6. Support any industrial action taken by PCS in response to the closures

MOVER: PCS