



POST WORKER



Tell Allan Leighton to stuff it...

NO TO SHARES - NO TO PRIVATISATION

On Tuesday every post worker received a nasty message through their front doors.

Allan Leighton has written asking if we want to have shares in Royal Mail. Leighton and his letter stink to high heaven and belong in the bin!

What part of NO doesn't Leighton understand? Like all bullies he wants to pretend to listen to what we think—and then tell us what we actually think.

Leighton is linking the share sale with the share in success campaign, a crude attempt to muddy the waters.

We deserve the money—although what we actually need is a proper rise in basic, pensionable pay. We don't need any sort of privatisation.

We aren't going to be bullied into selling off Royal Mail and our futures.

The Leighton letter follows the blackmailing move last weekend when Royal Mail's seven non-executive directors issued an ultimatum to the government. They said they would resign unless the government gave into their demands—including a share issue.

Let's remind Allan Leighton where we stand: even one share issued is part of the privatisation agenda.

Our CWU union and its members oppose the privatisation of Royal Mail and are committed to a 100 per cent publicly owned service.

We want Royal Mail to serve people's interests, not the dictates

of big business.

We will have the public on our side if we campaign or have to strike.

The majority of people are sick and tired of the endless privatisation and erosion of services that they see going on all around them.

Feeling

That public feeling is why the majority of Labour MPs have signed the CWU early day motion opposing shares as privatisation!

Why doesn't Leighton listen to us and address our real concerns over wages, pensions and jobs. Royal Mail has held back this year's pay deal and then offered us a pathetic 2.9 per cent rise. Anything else would have to come from the job-cutting efficiency review.

Leighton hopes that we are so desperate that we will grab the shares, and forget about the total package—privatisation, more access to private competitors, fewer workers, harder working, erosion of full-time jobs and threats to our pension scheme.

That is why every post worker should bin Leighton's ballot and instead take part in the CWU consultative exercise which starts next week.

This is the real way to gauge opinion. We should vote yes for a positive vision of public service and decent wages, pensions and conditions.

It's time to stop playing games.

Let's respond to Leighton's bullying by getting all of the forms together in every office and binning or burning them.

We need to send a clear message to Leighton, Royal Mail and Tony Blair—and our union leaders—to show we are serious about stopping the share scheme and will take strike action if they force it through.

A strong union campaign can reassure those workers who fear that unless they respond to Leighton now they might miss out on cash later on.

Thumbscrews

We can't rely on Labour MPs to stop Leighton. When the thumbscrews go on some will "discover" the scheme isn't really privatisation and they'll accept it. We need to build our own rank and file networks to deliver a campaign and action.

On 18 May Royal Mail will report its annual results, which are expected to show a £500 million profit. This will be the second year in which it has made big money.

The profits come from our sweat. We should get decent pay and conditions, not more threats and privatisation moves.

The Blair agenda of undermining the public sector and pushing private firms is falling apart. It's one reason why Labour is in such trouble now.

It's time to fight for our own agenda.