

Reject the agreement! Renew the strike! Remove Ward and Furey!

This resolution was passed by the Postal Workers Rank-and-File Committee, May 28, 2023

The Postal Workers Rank-and-File Committee denounces Dave Ward, Andy Furey and the Communication Workers Union postal executive who are functioning openly as an arm of Royal Mail management and the government.

Their actions last Wednesday in postponing for a second time a postal ballot on their pro-company agreement with Royal Mail are those of an unaccountable bureaucracy.

Facing the defeat of their negotiators' agreement with Royal Mail due to mass opposition from postal workers, Ward and company have used their control of the union apparatus to ride roughshod over the membership—17 members of the executive dictate whether 115,000 even get to vote because you can only vote if you vote the way Ward and Furey want you to!

Ward and Furey are not retreating one inch. They have reaffirmed their rotten pro-company agreement as “the best for our time”, citing Royal Mail’s “financial circumstances” to demand we accept the destruction of our jobs, pay, terms and conditions.

No mass meetings of the membership are being called. Instead, they called for an online Zoom meeting between reps and managers!

This must end. Their decision to pull the postal ballot is tacit admission that it would have been defeated. It should never have been agreed in the first place. If this clique dares to put this agreement before the

members, it must be met by a massive no vote.

Postal workers must now demand the immediate organisation of strike action, honouring the overwhelming Feb 16 mandate. This fight must go forward based on the following red lines:

- No pay cuts! For an inflation-busting pay-rise funded by major shareholders!
- No surrender of terms and conditions! Hands off sick pay, hours and entitlements!
- No inferior conditions for new entrants! Reject a two-tier workforce!
- No agreement with Royal Mail unless all victimised workers and reps are unconditionally reinstated!

Ward, Furey and the authors of the surrender document must be removed from office and the union’s assets and conduct of the strike placed under the control of the rank-and-file.

Events have refuted all claims that this bureaucracy can be pushed to fight. Their response to rank-and-file pressure has been to shut down every democratic mechanism, censoring and brow-beating critics, postponing the ballot and even cancelling the CWU’s annual conference.

We urge postal workers to convene workplace meetings to organise this fightback. Rank-and-file committees should be elected at every depot to coordinate the struggle against Royal Mail and for the removal of Ward, Furey and company.

May 28, 2023

Contact, find out more, and join the Postal Workers Rank-and-File Committee



wsws.org/postRFC



rmpw.rfc@gmail.com